Madras Revenue Register

THE REVENUE REGISTER.

No. 1.] MADRAS:—SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1876. [Vol. X.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT FARMS, 1873-74.

In our impression of November last year we offered a few observations on Mr. Robertson's Report on the condition and working of the Government Farms during the official year ending with the 31st March 1874, and we promised to notice on some future occasion that portion of the report which dealt with the Experimental and Model Farms and the Workshop. We propose now to fulfil this promise. The chief feature of the Experimental Farm would appear to be the breeding of cattle; but there does not seem to be at present any fitting ground attached to the farm for the purpose of giving full effect to the object in view, which we certainly think should not be neglected in the accomplishment of the benevolent scheme which the Government have in hand. In all great undertakings they must be the pioneers. The circumstances of this country are so peculiar that, for its development and prosperity, the State must enter into fields which would be quite out of place among advanced nations. Years must go by yet before it will be proper for the State to withdraw from undertakings necessary for the good of the country, in order not to interfere with private enterprize. There can be no question that it will be an inestimable benefit to the people to replace their wretched cattle with a compact and hardy breed suited to the character of the climate and soil; and it seems to us, therefore, that the proper course is being taken in looking to Arabia for sources of improvement, instead of to the larger but scarcely suitable fields of supply in Europe. We do not know if the neighbourhood of Madras itself is the best fitted for breeding cattle; but it is worthy of trial, especially as the experiment will be in immediate connection with the Experimental Farm itself, and under the direct supervision of the experienced officers who live on the spot and conduct its operations. The report before us states that there is now available a large piece of land, measuring about 300 acres, which is only separated from the Experimental Farm by the Adyar river. It may be that when the river is in flood—but how rarely will that be?—the intercourse between the two farms may to a certain extent be interrupted. But how easy is it to build a bridge at Sydapet; and as the writer of the report justly remarks, the inconvenience would be trifling in comparison with the advantages that the proximity of the river confers on the site. The land, it is said, is not exactly of the quality that might be selected for a grazing farm; but at the

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same time, we are told that it is capable of great improvement, which might be effected at a cost sufficiently moderate to justify the expenditure. When we know that twenty years ago the present People's Park of Madras, situated on the banks of the town ditch, was nothing but a salt marsh of about 100 acres in extent, why should we despair of seeing 300 acres of tolerably good land on the banks of a fresh water stream like the Adyar, covered with green grass and fodder crops fit for the sustenance and nourishment of herds of cattle that may roam at their pleasure over the miniature prairie? The site besides is quite open, and in the neighbourhood of that highly salubrious seat, Guindy Park. We believe the piece of ground pointed out by Mr. Robertson will be found to be admirably adapted for the purpose; and we trust that the Government will be induced by the good reasons he has assigned to sanction the proposal. This proposal is to begin by buying up the best calves born in Madras, of which there are a great number every year. These calves are now turned to no useful account, because the proprietors of the cows only care to get as much good milk as they can; and it appears that, in many instances, these cows are good specimens from the best districts, while others, having been imported from Australia, produce calves that are well worth attention. Mr. Robertson most judiciously remarks that, after the undertaking has thus been inexpensively organized, attempts could then be made to establish a herd suited to the requirements of the country. And as we have before pointed out, Arabia is the field to which we can best look for the improvement so much needed in the cattle of our southern districts. The animals selected for importation for the purposes of effecting improvement in the indigenous breeds are what are known as Aden cattle. But Aden, however, is not the place where the cattle are bred, but only the port at which they are shipped. The cattle themselves are bred in the interior of Arabia, and like the horses from the plains and deserts of Arabia, the oxen and sheep of our Ishmaelitish brethren would be admirably suited to the sunny plains of India. As to their bulls and cows, we have heard it said that the Arabs have a pedigree for their animals of this order of creation, just as they have for their best born steeds. The so-called Aden cattle have a high reputation as dairy animals, and from their small size and compact form, are just the sort of stock with which to conduct the earlier experiments of improving the small cattle chiefly found in the southern districts of Madras. It is an obvious mistake, as pointed out by Mr. Robertson, to use the immense bull of Nellore for breeding with the small cow of Madras; and although he does not mention it, we think that under such conditions the cow must be physically unequal to the burden of parturition. This is patent when we are told that a Nellore live bull weighs from 900 to 1,000 lbs., while the average size of a live Madras cow is from 200 to 300 lbs. only. Although a rather small-sized and compact description of cattle would appear to be best suited for the wants of our southern districts, it is nevertheless desirable to increase the size and working capacities of the existing breeds. At present the principle appears to be to starve down, in order to accommodate man and beast to the deteriorating condition of things. This is so aptly put by Mr. Robertson, that we must do him the justice of quoting his own language. "Native cattle," he writes, "like native laborers, can adapt themselves readily to the bad conditions with which they have so frequently to contend. A cooly, while work is abundan

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and food cheap, takes his three meals per day: as the work becomes less abundant, or food dearer, he reduces his allowance to two meals per day, and he will manage to exist even on one meal per day when out of employment or food is very dear. The starving process is gradual: the people become accustomed to it. It is the same with cattle: they can be starved down to, and kept alive for a time on, a daily allowance of food that would represent only a tithe of the quantity they could consume when in full health. This is the ordinary process to which they are subjected every hot season at the hands of their owners. But while it is possible to reduce gradually the daily food of a bullock until, in amount, it would not be one-tenth of the allowance that should be given, it is not so easy again to increase, without injury, the daily allowance of food to the quantity necessary to support the animal in health; hence the enormous losses that are experienced in this country amongst live stock when, after a long drought, a sudden fall of rain produces a luxuriant and plentiful growth of grass. Few cattle die from starvation; the deaths, in most cases, are the result of the sudden supply of succulent food in abundance, greedily eaten by animals whose constitutions have been weakened by a long and gradual starving process." How sad, but we fear how too true, a picture this is. How can any country substantially thrive under such a condition of things? We must improve our cattle; but as Mr. Robertson forcibly points out, this improvement means "more strength, deeper cultivation, better crops."

Sheep breeding, however, stands already on a tolerably good basis, and the experiment continues to progress satisfactorily. The wool is beginning to grow finer and in greater curls; and although this hot climate is not altogether suited to the production of fine wool, still it has this advantage, it is said, over cold countries; and that is, we can grow crops here throughout the year, which they cannot do there—an advantage considered to be most important in wool growing, because when sheep are alternately starved and over-fed, the wool is irregular in strength and quality.

The breeding of pigs has been a decided success; and Mr. Robertson thinks that if pigs receive proper attention, there is no more useful agricultural stock in this country. Of course, he does not refer to the pigs kept by natives, which are merely the scavengers of the village, but to pigs properly housed and fed, which are as cleanly in their habits as cattle and sheep under similar conditions. The great advantage of rearing pigs, he says, is that they will readily supply the wants of European households on coffee estates, and other places, where it is almost impossible to get butcher's meat fit to eat, especially as pigs can be reared under conditions quite unsuited for sheep breeding, and as, under artificial feeding, a pound of pork can always be produced at a cost very much lower than a pound of mutton.

The cotton produced by the Government Farm is far from fit to compete in quality with the New Orleans, but still there has been considerable improvement in the staple, and there are good hopes of ultimate success so far as to prove that a good description of cotton can be raised in this country at remunerative prices to the grower. The Experimental Farm has, besides, grown with success paddy of different descriptions, maize, grasses, and vegetable field crops, the returns showing that an improved system of agriculture not only produces quantity and quality, but yields a fair surplus over expenditure.

We have but little to notice in respect of the working of the Model Farm. It

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appears to have been working under difficulties, being saddled with charges which Mr. Robertson now sees ought never to have been tacked on against it. As far as we can understand this portion of the report, the Model Farm consists of a piece of land of about 115 acres in extent in the neighbourhood, which was originally in the hands of under-tenants. These tenants had five years' leases; but the land being in an unsatisfactory condition, covered in part with trees, broken up in part, and generally worn out, and the renters being altogether untrained and men of but very small means, they were allowed to relinquish their holdings, and the land was taken under Government management. Up to the date of the report about Rupees 2,300 had been spent on the Model Farm, chiefly apparently in the work of reclamation; but it is estimated that Rupees 5,000 will have to be spent in this work before the whole of the land can be brought into good cultivable condition. Besides paying full rent, the Farm is debited with a charge of 7½ per cent upon every rupee spent in reclamation and improvement. Mr. Robertson was anxious in starting this Model Farm, that it should be debited with every charge that could in reason be placed against it; but he now finds that he went too far, and has consequently burdened the farm with charges which should not have been debited against it. At the same time, while the farm has been struggling with difficulties and showing an unsatisfactory balance sheet, the value of the property itself has been gradually increasing. In short, as Mr. Robertson puts it, "the tenant has been sacrificed for the good of the landlord." We find that from the latter end of 1870 up to 31st March 1874, a total sum of Rupees 16,896 was spent on the farm in cooly labor, manure, live stock, fodder, seed, implements, overseer's salary and rent, including Rupees 619-8-4 interest on capital employed in working the farm, and Rupees 1,046-11-3 interest on capital expended on improvements of a permanent character. As a set-off against this, the farm actually produced in the same period Rupees 9,514 in returns from cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, rabbits, fruit, vegetables, hay and fodder, grains, indigo, cotton, and sundries; but adding Rupees 5,707-12-10, the net valuation of the assets on the 31st March 1874, the credit side of the farm rises to Rupees 15,222, or about Rupees 1,674 less than the total expenditure. But we may take it, the rough work is now all over, the heavy expenditure is at an end, and future returns will show a decided advantage on the credit side of the farm. After all, the moral of the lesson, as pointed out by Mr. Robertson, is really "*the cost of reclaiming and restoring land that has been exhausted under native farming,* rather than *the commercial results that can be secured by adopting a better system of agriculture;*" for he says that to open a farm on virgin land and bring it into cultivation is widely different.

The Workshops supply implements such as carts, ploughs, harrows, knives, water-lifts, and tools of all sorts. The report shows that during the year, for implements, machines, &c., sold, and for labor and materials supplied by the Workshops, the factory received Rupees 2,363-1-8, the expenditure being Rupees 2,149-7-3. The Workshops are supervised by two Special Assistant Superintendents. One is a German, and the other is an Englishman. The German is Mr. Kaspar Schiffmayer, from the High School of Agriculture in Bavaria; and the Englishman is Mr. Charles Benson, a graduate of the Royal Agricultural College of England.

There is a Library attached to the Government Farms for the use of the ap-

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prentices, and the return shows that it received a most valuable addition of scientific books and journals during the course of the year, such as works on chemistry, geology, mineralogy, heat, comparative physiology, drainage, &c., besides works on farming, agriculture, and animal breeding. Altogether the report gives a most hopeful account of the institution established by Government and worked by Government agency.

THE INDIAN AGRICULTURIST.

It affords us great pleasure to announce that we have received a copy of the first number of the *Indian Agriculturist*, edited by Mr. Robert Knight of Calcutta. We much regretted the discontinuance of the *Indian Economist*, whose pages were so full of interesting and statistical information in respect to the various resources and capabilities of our Indian Empire; and we therefore cordially welcome the *Indian Agriculturist*, which, devoted as it will be to the best interests of a country so almost entirely agricultural as India is, will be a most useful and valuable substitute for the *Indian Economist*. We beg to draw the attention of our readers to the journal; and elsewhere we extract the brief notice with which Mr. Knight introduces his periodical.

THE REGISTRATION MANUAL.

We are much obliged to Mr. F. J. Dawes, Sub-Magistrate and Sub-Registrar on the Shevaroy Hills, for the copy of his Registration Manual which he has kindly sent us. Nothing like it has been compiled before. It is calculated to be of the greatest use to the Officers of the Department, because we are told that the various circulars and orders issued from time to time for the working of the Registration Act, are so scattered over the records of each office, that it is extremely difficult to get at them for the bare purpose of ascertaining the Rules of the Department, or of extracting any information required for an object. The handbook will be still more acceptable to those of the general public who may have occasion to seek the boon of registration. The public are at still greater disadvantage than the Registering officers, as they have not access to scattered documents even, however prepared they may be for a laborious search. The Manual consists of the Registration Act, with extracts from the reported cases of the High Court and the various rulings and orders of the head of the department distributed as foot-notes under the sections to which they relate; and in an Appendix much useful matter is furnished in the shape of Forms, Tables of Fees, Powers of Attorney, &c. The book is published by Messrs. Higginbotham & Co., and is most moderately priced to be within the reach of all. Mr. Dawes evinces great industry and research, for we have before us the prospectus of a Revenue Code he has now in hand, which is likely to be very complete from the scope he has assigned to the contemplated work. We do not know whether the work is to be published at Bangalore; but we are sorry to find that Mr. Dawes intends to price his Code at the rather high figure of 9 Rupees per copy. Orders, we are told, are to be registered by the Manager of the Caxton Press at Bangalore.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LONDON LIFE.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

Sir,

The British Lion is once more awake. The noble animal has wagged his tail; indeed, it would not be too much to assert that he is alive and kicking; and no doubt, in sympathy, the horn of the Unicorn is exalted. After the lamentable indifference to our political status on the continent which has for the last seven or eight years been displayed by the administrators of the empire, it is refreshing to come across a little political pluck. The ignominious rôle assumed by Great Britain in the great war of 1870-71, combined with the uncontested abrogation by Russia of the Black Sea treaties, not unnaturally led the world to conclude that we had decided to carry non-intervention to the utmost limits, and the Northern Powers assumed that nothing short of invasion would be likely to disturb the equanimity, or dispel the lethargy, of the allegorical quadruped above referred to. But Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli have taken a bold step, which proclaims that the "old country" is not so utterly effete as was imagined, and perhaps in some quarters desired. The purchase of the Khedive's interest in the Suez Canal, for the large sum of four millions sterling, shows that the Conservative ministry is alive to the importance of the great Eastern question, the embers of which have been smouldering ever since the termination of the Crimean War, and may burst into flames at any moment. The announcement of the great "coup" was electrical both in political and financial circles, especially in the latter,

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and the rush of the "bears" to save their bacon was almost unprecedented. For the last two months the money market has been frightfully depressed, owing to the partial repudiation of Turkey and other irregularities in connection with almost all foreign stocks; and both in London and Paris, the unprincipled "wreckers" who play havoc with the property of *bonâ fide* but timid investors have been reaping a golden harvest. Their latest onslaught was upon Egyptian Bonds, and the wildest rumours respecting the Viceroy's insolvency were afloat; had he been the proud possessor and sole denizen of a desert island, his detractors could hardly have made him out more impecunious. Now his turn and that of his backers has arrived. With a magical stroke of the pen Lord Derby and Messrs. Rothschild have credited the much-abused potentate with four millions in hard cash, and the chameleons of the Stock Exchange announce in unmistakeable terms that his credit is undeniable. In other words, Egyptian stocks have risen from 20 to 30 per cent. All political parties appear to consider the Government purchase of the Canal shares judicious, and it will of course be ratified by Parliament in February, but it is not improbable that the question will arise whether we ought not to buy up the remaining interests. It would certainly be desirable that the Canal should be entirely out of the hands of private investors and speculators; but jealousy might arise were England to appropriate the Canal to herself, and men in this country, whose opinion ought to have weight, seem to favour the idea of a joint proprietorship by England, France, Italy, Prussia, and other nations, if need be, always excluding Russia, who can have no commercial reasons for putting a finger in the pie.

It is at present a popular delusion that the acquisition of so large an interest in the Suez Canal will increase our influence in Egypt to an enormous extent. There is no foundation for such a hasty conclusion. We are on most cordial terms with the Khedive, as was proved by his reception of the Prince of Wales, and it is quite on the cards that he may follow our advice as to the regulation of his finances, now that the ice is broken; but the Suez Canal shares are more likely to affect our relations with M. De Lesseps than with the Viceroy of Egypt. That gentleman, of whom I can speak most cordially from personal experience, has none of the prejudices which sometimes warp the judgment of his compatriots, and is charmed that the obstinate Britons at length acknowledge the value of his Titanic achievement in so practical a manner. It really ought to be rather humiliating to this country to look back upon the epoch when our ministers and our engineers, our Palmerstons and Stephensons, derided the great Frenchman's project, and ridiculed the possibility of converting the continent of Africa into an island. On the whole face of the globe we are the nation *par excellence* who have profited by the work of M. De Lesseps' splendid genius and indomitable perseverance, and we are the short-sighted noodles who moved heaven and earth to prevent the accomplishment of his design. Is not this what is so aptly termed the irony of events? In purchasing four millions worth of shares, however, we have eaten our humble pie and made the "amende" to the great French Engineer. Mr. Henry Oppenheim, the well known Egyptian Financier who has so long been successfully employed in keeping the Khedive's head above water, was mainly instrumental in completing the negotiation; and Englishmen in general, and holders of Egyptian stock in particular, ought to be very much obliged to him. The Suez Canal bargain has not disturbed Foreign minds so much as was anticipated. France has vapoured a little, and prejudiced writers in the Paris journals have sustained that no such insult could have been offered to the "Grande nation," had a Monarchy or an Empire existed in lieu of a Republic; but this is all "froth," and, if there be any spleen in it, it is spleen directed not against England but against rival political combinations in France. Germany has expressed decided approval of Lord Derby's *coup d'etat*, and even Russia abstains from over-captious criticism. Perhaps Austria is most "riled" at the turn which events have taken; but it would be difficult to say why, for of all the Continental Powers she would appear to have the least direct interest in the free navigation of the Suez Canal. On the whole, the purchase of the shares may be considered to "score" on the side of the Conservatives.

Turkey shows no sign of revivification or reform. It is now more than two months since her financial collapse was made public, and still the Padishah pursues his course of luxury and extravagance; still he summons to his Council none but the most obstinate and unprincipled old Turkish Tory advisers. *Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat* is as true a saying in these days as when it was written nineteen hundred years ago, and the Father of the Faithful on the Bosphorus is busy in demonstrating the fact. It is now well-known that the Sultan of Turkey is positively imbecile; and as a natural sequence, he and his empire are rapidly careering along the broad path which leads to destruction. Were Abdul Aziz a potentate ruling elsewhere, he would be looked upon as a lunatic; but his person, according to Mahomedan views, is too sacred for incarceration, so his empire goes to rack and ruin, his subjects are tortured and persecuted, and certain credulous clients receive no interest on their bonds. *Quicquid delirant reges plectuntur activi.* Does

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it not seem rather a pity, that the civilised Powers of Europe should have made up their minds, that their duty is to ensure the execution of the trite maxim that every man must be allowed to go to the devil in his own fashion?

The continent of Europe wears a peaceful aspect. It generally does at this time of year. Frost, snow, wind, and rain do not invite campaigning. At the same time this is the season when the brains of ambitious statesmen incubate, and who knows what complications may be hatched by the warm breath of spring? Those German stoves in the War Office at Berlin could have given some valuable advice to Napoleon III, had they been able to communicate all that reached their ears in December 1869. So far as England is concerned, Eastern rather than Western embroglios are likely to arise. Should Turkey succumb to the Northern Powers, and should Great Britain be unable or unwilling to arrest her downfall, great disaffection may arise among our Mahomedan subjects in India; and, if the Malay population follow suit, and the Chinese take advantage of such a capital opportunity for insulting us Barbarians once more, we shall have our hands pretty full. On the best authority I learn that, should the Chinese think fit to assail us without warning, frightful events would occur before sufficient reinforcements could arrive to gain the upper hand. The celestials are still savage and uncivilised in social amenities; but, so far as relates to warfare, they are very different people to tackle compared to those who fought us on the Peiho fifteen or sixteen years back.

Following the example of other military nations in Europe, our War Office has just issued a new and comprehensive scheme of mobilisation. Prussia has evidently been the model in view. The scheme looks very plausible, and has been prepared with the utmost care and ingenuity by the executive officers of the Intelligence Department, but on minute inspection it proves to be a hollow mockery, a delusion and a snare. Why? Because the scheme of mobilisation, sufficiently admirable in itself, professes to mobilise non-existent troops. A force on paper and a force in the field are two very different things; and until we have really *bonâ fide* troops, and guns and materiel, schemes of mobilisation can only be devised with a view to hoodwink public opinion in the country. This precious scheme provides "army corps" drawn up in strict accordance with the regulation continental pattern; but their detail shows that they are composed of doubtful militia-men, still more shadowy volunteers, mythical army reserve men, and a sprinkling of orthodox regulars, without cavalry, guns, scientific, or transport corps. Really the Duke of Cambridge and Mr. Gathorne Hardy should have hesitated before dangling such a phantom army before the eyes of the British tax-payer. If this delusive scheme, through the influence of the *Times* and the Radical Press, should humbug the public, they will have to pay dearly some day for their short-sighted credulity. It is always an unpleasant process to pay away money; and many a husband and father, in discharging the premium on his life-policy, has lingered regretfully over the Bank notes and sovereigns that he disburses; but he has his reward when, stricken by sickness and death, he feels that his belongings are provided for. If John Bull will not part with his money freely to insure his country, he must be prepared for weeping and gnashing of teeth when the day of reckoning comes. It is really surprising that Mr. Gathorne Hardy should not seize the opportunity which is offered him. He was doubtless justified in giving Mr. Cardwell's new system and revolutionary ideas a fair trial; but when he sees army matters daily going from bad to worse, when he sees each new-fangled idea daily demonstrated to be a lamentable failure, when he hears from all ranks of the army that Mr. Cardwell's crotchets cannot by any possibility succeed, then it does seem almost incredible that he should not remonstrate effectually with those who may be supposed to "gag" him, or resign. It is to be hoped that the mobilisation scheme, carefully perused, will not deceive but open wide the eyes of the British Public.

Thanks to the telegraph, we hear just as much of the Heir Apparent's movements in India as if he were travelling in Kent or Sussex. The weather in Ceylon seems to have been somewhat similar to that which we have experienced in these Islands, viz., gales of wind and deluges of rain, and the European suite must be rather disgusted with the amenities of a tropical climate. Of course His Royal Highness was bound to shoot an elephant, and so he endured immeasurable discomfort; how many sportsmen do the same thing in all countries! In England, if you have horses, you *must* hunt; if you have dogs and guns, you *must* shoot; if you can pull a strong stroke and have any connection with an aquatic club, you *must* row; if you have two bats and a set of pads, you *must* play cricket, and so on *ad infinitum.* No matter what the weather, no matter what your other and more pressing engagements, no matter how dyspeptic or disinclined for sport you may be, sport you *must* have "willy nilly." "Life would be tolerable but for its amusement" said Sir Cornwall Lewis, and how fervently must the Prince of Wales, his equerries and his coolies, have re-echoed the sentiment in Ceylon. You must really treat him better in Madras, or we shall have him home before his time, and then all sorts of frightful political rumours will be set afloat. We shall be told mysteriously of organised plots of assassination and European complications which necessitate his immediate pre-

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sence at the Privy Council, and then rumours of abdication will be ingeniously interwoven with conjugal scandals, and there will be the devil to pay. So we hope that the sanitary authorities will order the clerk of the weather to turn off the water, and warn the Cholera off the premises of the Presidency. As it is far from probable that the future King of England will ever have a second chance of inspecting his Eastern Dominions and hob-nobbing with his eastern subjects and co-potentates, it would be little short of a calamity that his tour should be abridged. In a land like India, where etiquette and precedence are of such paramount importance, any deviation from the programme laid down could not fail to occasion much annoyance, if not serious jealousies and heart-burnings. The demeanour of Lord Northbrook has been highly thought of in this country. He appears to have behaved with a modesty and dignity beyond all praise. He had by no means an easy part to play at Bombay, and he came out with flying colours; no doubt he will be equally affable and discreet at Calcutta.

We have not yet heard the last of that irrepressible trio Messrs. Kenealy, Guildford Onslow, and the "claimant." The two former have been interviewing the latter in Dartmoor prison, and of course are more firmly convinced than ever of the positive identity of the "unhappy nobleman," which conviction they are most anxious should be shared by the general public. Heart-rending accounts of the reduced bulk of the convict have been promulgated; and it is considered in this case a proof of innocence, that the incarcerated individual does not thrive quite so well on bread and "skilly" in Dartmoor Jail, as he did on turtle-soup and unlimited brandy and water in a West End Hotel. Pathetic letters have also been manufactured and distributed, which purport to emanate from the claimant's brain and pen; but their authenticity may be received with some little hesitation, as they contain elaborate later quotations from the poets or the Latin Grammar; and it may be recollected that the convict, when under cross examination, did not know who Virgil was, and interpreted *laus Deo* to mean the "laws of God." It is hardly probable that his knowledge of classic lore has been amended by his intercourse with the local turnkeys. Are we ever destined to hear the last of the "claimant?" He has been "going" now for about twelve years!

A club case, which has been much discussed, has just been decided in a Court of Law. Mr. Lyttelton was turned out of the Junior Naval and Military Club for "conduct which, in the opinion of the committee, was prejudicial to the interests of the club." He appealed to the gentlemen of the long robe, because he argued that the committee had exceeded their powers; but the rule under which they acted obtains in nearly all clubs; and rightly so, because, if a committee is not vested with plenary powers, it had better never sit at all. A score of gentlemen elected by their friends and acquaintance out of some six hundred others, must of necessity be assumed to act with justice, generosity, and circumspection. This is what Mr. Lyttelton denied, but which Vice-Chancellor Bacon has affirmed. The individual must in all relations of life be sacrificed to the interests of the community, and if Mr. Lyttelton persisted in quarrelling with and thwarting the committee, he was bound to go to the wall. It is not usually advisable to publish club squabbles, but good service has been done by bringing this case into court for decision. In future, members will understand that the "powers that be," however arbitrary, must be respected and obeyed. On no other conditions could club life be maintained in decency and order.

An unfortunate scandal has arisen at Eton College. It is very sad that these great educational foundations cannot arrange to wash their dirty linen at home. The miserable quarrels between Dr. Hayman and his assistant masters and the Governing Body at Rugby are still fresh in our memories, and there appears every prospect of similar dissensions in Buckinghamshire. Dr. Hornby, the Head Master of Eton, thought fit to dismiss a subordinate, who has appealed to the Governing Body. The latter side with the Head Master, and so the recalcitrant usher rushes into the columns of the *Times*, or rather induces a friend, Mr. Knatchbull Hugessen, to air his grievances for him in that journal. With its customary inadequate appreciation of the fitness of things, the *Times* has allowed a correspondence to be prolonged which ought never to have been commenced. If Dr. Hornby is a fit Head Master, he must control his subordinates absolutely. What would Keats or Hawtrey have said to an assistant master who did not regard their word as law? Why, I verily believe the former would as lief have flogged a junior master for insubordination, as he would have similarly punished a fourth form boy. The good old times are sadly changed, and Eton suffers in public estimation accordingly.

Our naval mishaps have not yet come to an end. The *Iron Duke*, which so effectually and artistically rammed and sank the *Vanguard* just outside Dublin Bay, has nearly gone to the bottom herself. Some sluices or valves or other complicated mechanical contrivances (which Jack does not seem to understand and appreciate) were left open; in rushed the water; nobody could find out where the leak was, and another half million of money was quietly settling down to the bottom of the Channel, when the seat of the mischief was

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discovered. All these marine mistakes are rather humiliating, and rumour says that Mr. Ward Hunt will not stay in office to be badgered in Parliament. These disasters are probably no fault of his, nor of the captains in command. In fact science, with its gigantic strides, far outstrips the progress of naval education, and many of our ironclads are manned by seamen who are as fit to manœuvre them as a plough-boy would be to drive a locomotive engine. Here again, as with our land forces, efficiency is entirely a question of pounds, shillings, and pence. Instead of the traditional "hearty salt," our floating forts—for that is what they are—require skilled artizans and practical engineers. Brains are superseding muscles, and brains command a high price, which sooner or later will have to be paid if we are to retain the Empire of the Seas.

I am, yours, &c.,
PERIPATETIC.

LONDON, *10th December* 1875.

RIGHT-HAND AND LEFT-HAND CASTE DISPUTES.

To the Editor of the Revenue Register.

SIR,

Madras Regulation III of 1802 and Madras Civil Courts Act III of 1873, Section 16, provide that in all suits regarding succession, inheritance, marriage, or caste, or *any religious usage* or institution, the Mahomedan Law with respect to Mahomedans, and the Hindoo Law with regard to Hindoos—and any custom (if such there be) having the force of law governing the parties concerned—shall form the rule of decision.—Vide Privy Council judgment in *Moonshee Buzloor Raheem* v. *Shamshoonissa Begam*, 3, *Madras Jurist*, p. 18. The disputes between the Right-hand sect and Left-hand sect among the lower orders of Hindoos exist since an immemorial period. In large villages and towns, separate streets are allotted to each sect for their processions. Thus this long-standing custom has become law. Such being the case, how can a Court refuse to recognize this custom, and declare that every man has a right to go in procession in public highways? Although the question of proceeding in procession is not in the suit in which the enclosed judgment was passed, yet the Munsiff (who has earned a good name as an honest man and a lawyer) in deciding that a left-hand caste man can erect a dwelling house in a right-hand caste's street, argued a great deal against the policy of maintaining caste distinctions in public highways. The judgment is interesting in every way; and, in sending copy of it for publication in your columns, I beg you will favor us with your opinion as to whether the judgment is right or wrong.

Yours obediently,
ADONI.

23rd December 1875.

BELLARY DISTRICT MUNSIFF'S COURT,

5TH NOVEMBER 1875.

Present:

P. TEROOMAL ROW, District Munsiff.

O. S. No. 677 *of* 1875.

N. Jembiah, C. Kadappah, P. Dodda Ramanna, V. Rangiah, K. Iyenna, and K. Hanoomanna—Vakeel C. Bheemsain Row;

versus

Madiga Iyagadoo—Vakeels V. Narasinga Row and Lateef Khan.

Judgment.

1. I think it is necessary to recapitulate at some length the previous proceedings in this case, in order that the present state of the case, and the grounds of my judgment thereon, may be better understood.

2. Generally, in almost all large villages in Southern India—at least in this part of the Ceded Districts—there exist two sets of caste-factions among the Hindoo lower orders (viz., other than the divijahs, *i.e.*, Brahmins, Kshatriahs, and Vysyas). These factions are commonly called right-hand and left-hand castes. Of these, the right-hand sect, styled *Dyvachara*, comprises lingayets, weavers, oil-mongers, tailors, reddies, cultivators, Baljas, shepherds, potters, Bénders, shoe-makers, basket-makers, Gollas, washermen, barbers, jogees, Boodboodkies (all wearing lingas), and Malas or Kotagars among Pariahs; and the left-hand sect, styled *Panchala*, comprises the five sorts of smiths (viz., 1, gold and silver (kamsala); 2, copper and brass (kanchara); 3, iron (kammara); 4, wood (wadla); and 5, stone (silpi) smiths) who wear sacred thread of *divijahs* or twice-born, Hatagars or dyers, *Dévangas* or weavers wearing thread, and Madigars or chucklers among Pariahs. These two rival parties have always maintained an animated fight for precedence. From time immemorial each of these parties have had their own streets and deities, for the performance of their religious duties and processions; and each of them is prohibited from going in procession in the streets of the other sects. But this restriction is now daily dying out, as civilization consequent on British administration is progressing. True, the British Courts have hitherto maintained such restrictions by their decrees, but the present idea of the authorities is quite different on this subject from that

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of their predecessors. Now, every man has a right to pass along the public highways in any manner, provided he does no injury to any one else; and the fact that he has never done so before is no reason why he should not do so now. It is now left to the discretion of the Magistrate to sanction or forbid any procession; for, it is he that is responsible for the public safety.

3. The plaintiffs are members of the *Dyvachar* class, and the defendant is a Madiga by caste, and a member of the *Panchala* community, of the village of Gúdikallú in the taluk of Adoni. This village consists of 676 houses, and the population, according to the census of 1871, is 2,602.

4. The facts of the case are these:—

On the 4th November 1869, the plaintiffs sued the defendant in Original Suit No. 902 of 1869, on the file of this Court, to establish their right to a piece of ground measuring 20 yards east by 10 yards west, bounded by first plaintiff's house and cattle shed on the east, by Kotagar people's houses on the south, by Mullah's house on the west, and by Valiah's house on the north, valued at Rupees 500, stating that they had right to the ground as the *Dyvachar* section of the village, and that the defendant, without their consent, "commenced" to build a house on it on the 19th August 1869. Here, I may observe that it appears from a Takeed of the Tahsildar of Adoni, dated 26th May 1868, addressed to the village authorities, that the defendant erected a hut on the ground in dispute in about February 1868. The defendant traversed the plaintiffs' title, and claimed the ground as his, and maintained that it was included in his premises; that he had all along had possession and enjoyment; and that four years before (*i.e.*, 4 years before 1869) he had removed a hut that was standing on the ground, and built a house on the site. He also contended that all the *Dyvachar* community of the village should have joined in bringing the suit. Mr. Platcher, the late District Munsiff of this Court, recorded two issues:—"(1), whether the disputed ground is the property of the plaintiffs; and (2), whether they have all along had possession and use." On the 19th March 1870, a petition was filed by both parties requesting the Court to strike off the suit, as they had compromised with each other, the plaintiffs consenting to the defendant's building the house in dispute, and the defendant agreeing not to open doorways to the said house leading to the east and north. The suit was accordingly struck off the file. But on the same day the defendant put in a motion requesting the restoration of the suit, on the ground that the withdrawal-petition had been fraudulently prepared. Mr. Platcher "ordered that the suit be replaced on the file" on the 25th March 1870. Upon what proof, and according to what law, this order was passed, I am now at a loss to know. Well, on the restoration of the suit to the file, the plaintiffs examined five witnesses and the defendant examined three witnesses. The Court deputed an Ameen to prepare and submit a plan of the disputed ground; and on the receipt of the said plan, Mr. Platcher, "notwithstanding the discrepancies in plaintiffs' evidence," gave credit to it; and observing "that "the plaintiffs have rightly sued for the ground "as belonging to their class, and it would be "scarcely possible to bring every member of "the class into the suit, and moreover some of "them may be unwilling to sue," decreed, on the 30th July 1870, in favor of the plaintiffs for the ground "according to the dimensions given in the Commissioner's Report, with costs of suit." What the dimensions of it are is not stated, even in the decree. On the 22nd August 1870, the defendant applied for a review of the judgment, on the ground that he was absent from the village when the Ameen came and prepared the plan, which was false; and the Ameen submitted this incorrect plan, taking part with the plaintiffs, who were rich Sowkars; but Mr. Platcher rejected the application. Then, the defendant appealed in Appeal Suit No. 194 of 1870. This appeal was disposed of by Mr. Dawes, the late Principal Sudr Ameen of Bellary, on the 2nd March 1872. Mr. Dawes held that the defendant had pleaded both possession and enjoyment; that the plaintiffs themselves complained of his commencing to build on the ground they claimed; that the objection taken in appeal, viz.: that the suit had been wrongfully laid, inasmuch as the plaintiffs sued only to establish their title to the ground, whereas they should have also sued to recover, was sound and tenable; and that the plaintiffs clearly should sue to obtain possession; and he proceeded to reverse the original decree and dismiss the plaintiffs' suit with costs, with however the reservation in favor of the *Dyvachar* people that if they chose, they could themselves, or by duly appointed representatives, bring another suit to establish their title and recover possession. Upon this the plaintiffs sued the defendant on the 23rd March 1872, in Original Suit No. 179 of 1872, on the file of this Court, for the establishment of their title, and to recover possession of the same ground (but with a lessened measurement, viz.: eleven yards east by ten yards west.) The defendant traversed the suit. On the 14th October 1872, Mr. Platcher directed the plaintiffs, that as the institution of the suit by only "one" instead of by all the members of the *Dyvachar* community was irregular, the plaintiffs should join all of them. This order was written by a Goomastah and was not signed by the Munsiff. Anyhow Mr. Platcher recognised this order, as would appear from his subsequent

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proceedings. On the 6th November 1872, Mr. Platcher, observing that "the plaintiffs having "failed to comply with the requisition of the "Court to include in the suit the *Dyvacha-* "*ram* class of the village according to the "Principal Sudr Ameen's decree," dismissed the suit with costs under Section 148 of the Code of Civil Procedure. If Mr. Platcher himself deemed that it was necessary that all the members of the *Dyvachar* class should be made parties, he should have followed the procedure laid down in Section 73, Act VIII of 1859. Why the plaintiffs should include others as co-plaintiffs, and how their failure to do so would justify dismissal of the suit under Section 148, which relates to the default of parties to produce proofs, I am at a loss to comprehend. Well, to return to the subject, Mr. Platcher, on the 20th December 1872, or six weeks afterwards, set aside his decree of the 6th November 1872, without any application for a review, and, on his own motion. In my humble opinion, this was a procedure quite unwarranted by law; but Mr. Platcher, in his "order" setting aside the decree and directing the restoration of the suit to the file, stated that "he was in *doubt* as to the correctness of "the course pursued by him, as his judgment "was not passed on the records, and that he "resolved to set aside the same and to proceed "with the case." Subsequently, on the 4th October 1873, Mr. Platcher recorded the same issues for investigation as above stated. On the 19th November 1873, the defendant challenged the plaintiffs and three of his witnesses belonging to the *Dyvachar* class, to take an oath in Doorgammah's Temple to the effect that the disputed ground belonged to the *Dyvachar* class; that they had possession and enjoyment; that they built a platform, and that the defendant had no right to it. The plaintiffs' vakeel agreed to the proposal. On the 21st November 1872, the Court issued a commission to a copyist of the Court to administer oath to the plaintiffs. He returned the warrant of commission on the 22nd November 1872, reporting that the plaintiffs, as well as the defendant's two witnesses, had taken their oath in the temple. It is scarcely necessary to remark that the Commissioner executed his commission beyond what he was ordered to do. The Court did not mention in its warrant anything about the defendant's witnesses. From this report it would appear *all* the plaintiffs took their oath. But it was not the case as would appear from subsequent proceedings. On the 26th November, the defendant put in a motion stating that he had not consented to the plaintiffs' taking oath; that only a few of the plaintiffs had taken their oath; and that therefore the Court might proceed with the examination of the witnesses. But this petition was "rejected." On the 4th December 1873, the Court issued another commission to the same copyist directing him to administer oaths to the other "three plaintiffs than the three who had already taken their oaths." How the Court came to know that only three out of six plaintiffs had taken their oath and that the others had not, is a mystery. Then the Commissioner reported on the 5th December, that the fourth and fifth plaintiffs took their oaths on that day, and on the 8th December the sixth plaintiff took his oath. I am perfectly convinced that these two reports were utterly unreliable, and my doubt as to the accuracy of the Commissioner's reports has been subsequently confirmed by the statements made in a petition voluntarily presented to me by the third plaintiff, who says that on a day the first, second, and fifth plaintiffs took their oath (whereas the Commissioner reported that the first, second and third plaintiffs took their oath on that day), that next, third and sixth plaintiffs took their oath (whereas it appears from the Commissioner's Report that fourth and fifth plaintiffs were the next persons who took their oath); and that then the fourth plaintiff took his oath (whereas the sixth plaintiff lastly took his oath according to Commissioner's Report.) On the 13th December 1873, Mr. Platcher gave judgment for plaintiffs as sued for, with costs, on the ground that the plaintiffs had taken the required oath. Against this judgment the defendant preferred an appeal to the District Court in *formâ pauperis*, but his application to appeal in *formâ pauperis* was, owing to the absence of the defendant when called by the District Court, struck off on the 20th February 1874. The defendant applied to me on the 17th March 1875, for review of judgment. I gave notice to plaintiffs; but they failed to appear on the day of hearing of the defendant's application. Having read the records of the case, I admitted the application, set aside the decree, and ordered the re-investigation of the case. In the meantime the local jurisdiction of this Court over the village in the Adoni Taluk, in which the disputed ground is situated, was transferred from this Court to that of Adoni. I then sent up the case to the District Court, which placed the suit on its file in Original Suit No. 52 of 1875; and then transferred the suit to this Court for disposal. The proceedings of the case were received from the District Court on the 25th October, and the suit was filed in Original Suit No. 677 of 1875.

5. The following are the issues which I have recorded for the disposal of the case :—

I. Whether the suit is barred by Section 2, Act VIII of 1859?

II. Whether the disputed ground is worth Rupees 500?

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III. Whether the plaintiffs or the defendant have the title, possession, and enjoyment of the ground in dispute?

6. The plaintiffs and defendant examined each three witnesses.

7. I have read the records of this case, and that of Original Suit No. 902 of 1869, and Appeal Suit No. 194 of 1873, as well as several takeeds written by the Adoni Tahsildar to village officers produced by the plaintiffs' first witness.

8. Reasons for my granting the review are not wanting. The numerous irregularities above noticed, and the obvious nature of the consequences of the decree that directed the demolition of the defendant's house admittedly standing for several years, and to retain which the plaintiffs had themselves agreed once, are sufficient grounds for my setting aside my predecessor's judgment. I found that the review was necessary for the ends of justice, and to correct errors and omissions in the proceedings which have happened to the prejudice of the defendant's interests; and I granted the review on the authority of the Rulings of Madras High Court. (I, Vol. Rep., 164).

9. Mr. Platcher states in his judgment that, "on appeal the Principal Sudr Ameen "reversed the judgment and dismissed the "former suit on the ground that the whole of "the *Dyvachar* people of the village had not "joined in the suit. He, however, left it op-"tional to the class to bring a fresh suit to "establish their title and to recover posses-"sion of the ground. Thereupon the plaintiffs "alone again sued in the present suit. At "first I (Mr. Platcher) dismissed the suit "under Section 148 of the Code of Civil Pro-"cedure on the ground that the Principal Sudr "Ameen's requisition had not been complied "with, but subsequently doubting the correct-"ness of the Principal Sudr Ameen's direction "and my (Mr. Platcher's) own proceeding, as "he had not decided whether the plaintiffs "could sue alone or not, I replaced the suit "on the file." But Mr. Platcher did not decide the point, though it was a most essential one in the case. I do not say that I agree with Mr. Dawes in holding that plaintiffs alone could not sue. In my opinion a single person can represent the whole population in maintaining the public property. But the Principal Sudr Ameen took another view of the case, and his decision, whether right or wrong, is final, (as no appeal was made against it) between the parties who should abide by it; and I, therefore, think that this suit, brought by only the same plaintiffs against the same defendant, is barred by Section 2, Act VIII of 1859. The former suit was a proper one, and a declaratory decree could have been passed as the plaintiffs would have had consequential relief if their title to the ground had been declared valid. But Mr. Dawes thought that that suit praying only for declaration of title was insufficient to meet their object. In the subsequent suit, Mr. Platcher's proceedings after he dismissed the suit under Section 148 (against which the plaintiffs neither preferred an appeal nor applied for review) were irregular, and could not be legally countenanced, as he had no authority to replace the dismissed suit on his own motion. On the suit being replaced it was disposed of not on its merits, but according to a game-like arrangement of the parties. The defendant put in a motion—as to the genuineness of which he subsequently demurred—challenging the plaintiff and three of his witnesses belonging to plaintiffs' creed to take oath in Doorgamma's temple as to the truth of the plaintiffs' allegations. It was the defendant's object, as it is generally the case, either that it would be a practical test of plaintiffs' sincerity, or to trifle with the reputation of plaintiffs in the estimation of the public, even at the hazard of losing his property; as, in the opinion of the defendant, the plaintiffs' testimony on solemn affirmation as administered in Court would not be satisfactory. The system of solemn affirmation is—according to Sir George Campbell, who was a barrister-at-law, Judge of the High Court, and lastly the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal—"nothing but a farce," and to which the natives—particularly the rural public—never attach any degree of reverence. It is an evident fact, that can daily be seen in our Courts, that a respectable native would not consent to take oath in any sacred place as to the truth of his statement; whereas he would have no objection to give his statement on solemn affirmation in a Court of justice. Irrespective of religious scruples, it is deemed highly disrespectful to take oaths in temples even as to a matter of undoubted truth. So the defendant thought that plaintiffs would not take oath in the temple before the public, and that if they took the oath required, they (plaintiffs) would lose their respect in public estimation. In this belief the defendant was sadly disappointed. No one, except the copyist holding the commission to administer the oath, was present when the plaintiffs took their oath, and even all the plaintiffs did not assemble together at one time to take their oath in the temple. Notwithstanding the contradiction between the two reports of the Commissioner, and also between those reports and the allegations of the third plaintiff, as to the fact of the plaintiffs' making oath, it may be said, for the sake of argument, that the plaintiffs took the required oath in the temple, but still the matter is defective in law. The Commissioner merely reported that the plaintiffs had the required oath administered to them, but submitted no written evidence or depositions made by the plaintiffs as required by Sec-

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tion 10, Act X of 1873. So, we have not on the record the sworn depositions of the plaintiffs, to use them conclusively against the defendant, under Section 11 of the said Act. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that the second suit is barred by Section 2, Act VIII of 1859; that, if it is to be deemed that it is not barred, all the proceedings in this suit subsequent to the dismissal under Section 148 are illegal; and that, if it be legal, the defendant's challenging the plaintiffs to take oath as to the truth of their claim, was not complied with as required by law.

10. To save the necessity of remanding the suit for investigation and disposal on the merits of the case, if the case is to be appealed, and the Appellate Court take a contrary view of the case, I think it better to record my opinion on the remaining two issues touching the merits of the case.

11. The value of the suit was certainly overrated, perhaps, to deter the defendant from defending the suit at a considerable cost beyond his means. It would appear from the evidence that the spot in question was valueless in the village, and the plaintiffs valued it—as one of their witnesses said—on the importance of respect which they attach to the land in question. The Court fees should have been determined under Clause 6, Art. 17 of Schedule II, instead of fixing it under Art. 1 of Schedule I of the Court Fees Act VII of 1870; for it is not possible to estimate at a money value the subject-matter in dispute.

12. The plaintiffs' witnesses who were examined in this case were only those who gave testimony in plaintiffs' favor in the former case. Their present testimony is contrary to their former statements. The statement that the disputed ground is a platform seems to me a new invention, as no allusion was made to it in the plaint in the former suit. The plaintiffs' witnesses speak to this platform having been used by the *Dyvachar* class as a place of assemblage previous to forming procession. The plaintiffs' first witness (who takes a warm interest in the plaintiffs' case, and who is a convicted bribe-taker) in describing the nature of the platform and of the assemblage, stated that the platform is not in good order, that it looks like a platform because large stones are lying around the place without any pial, that within the last eleven years he saw on one occasion that people assembled therein at the "Moharam" (notwithstanding that both parties are Hindoos, and the suit is concerning religion!) that the disputed ground is not situated in the *Dyvachar Bazaar*, but by *the side thereof;* that there is a large rocky stone of a man's height between the bazaar and the defendant's house; that there is no way to defendant's building direct from the bazaar, and that the *Dyvachar* processions proceed along the bazaar direct from west to east, and never turn to south, by which direction the way that leads to defendant's building runs. The plaintiffs' 2nd witness, a Mahomedan, volunteered to support the plaintiffs' case, but failed in cross-examination. He said that he did not know the boundaries of the *Dyvachar* and *Panchala* streets; that he believed the bazaar from west to east leading to the Fort—and not either to the north or south—was the only street for the *Dyvachar* class; that the platform was in good order; that a large rocky-stone stood between the bazaar and the defendant's building, and that there was no way to defendant's building direct from the bazaar. The 3rd witness, a man belonging to the *Dyvachar* class, speaks in plaintiffs' favor. All three witnesses differ from each other in certain other minor points. The defendant's witnesses prove that the defendant's building is not in the bazaar, and that the ground thereof has been in the possession and enjoyment of the defendant all along.

13. Even if the disputed ground is situated in the *Dyvachar Bazaar*, I think neither the plaintiffs nor any *Dyvachar* man can restrain the defendant from erecting a dwelling house thereon, unless they can show a title to it. I know by experience that, although in some villages and towns there are well defined streets separate for each of these two rival classes, there are still in such streets many houses belonging to persons of the opposite class. This fact may readily be found to exist in the town of Bellary. Thus the fact of the defendant building a dwelling house is in no way an offensive act, such as to cause an insult to the religion of others. Each class is forbidden only from going in procession in the street allotted to the opposite class. Tranquillity ought not to be maintained by a sacrifice of liberty. Plaintiffs' prayer to demolish the defendant's building is based on a right which is a mere luxury, the denial of which would not practically interfere with the real right of the plaintiffs' class. To support this view I would only quote the terms of the petition filed by both parties withdrawing the suit in Original Suit No. 902 of 1869. There, the plaintiffs have consented to the retention of the defendant's house which they now seek to remove. Would the plaintiffs agree to the retention of the defendant's disputed building, had it been really offensive in any way to their religion? Certainly not. Then what is the reason for plaintiffs' prayer? I can see nothing but a luxurious ambition of triumph which the Court's justice will not countenance at all.

14. Under these circumstances, I can see no alternative but to dismiss the suit with costs.

This judgment may be interesting to a certain extent, and the *ratio decidendi* may be sound; but we would have been better pleased with it, if the language were simpler, and there were not such a labored attempt in it to throw dirt on one's predecessor.—Ed. *R. R.*

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HIGH COURT—MADRAS.

No. 54.

MORGAN, C. J., INNES AND KINDERSLEY, JJ.

Certificate of sale—Stamp duty.

Where the Board of Revenue referred the question whether sale certificates issued under Sections 35 *and* 40 *of Act VIII of* 1865 *should be written on stamped paper.*

HELD, *that such a certificate was not a conveyance, and was not subject to the stamp duty.*

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12*th January* 1875.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th November 1874, No. 405:—

I have the honor to request the Board's orders on the question whether certificates of sale issued under Sections 35 and 40 of Act VIII of 1865 are to be written on stamped paper. I think they should be stamped as conveyances at the expense of the purchaser.

The point is a doubtful one. The Collector will pass an order in a case of the kind and submit it to the Board, who can then obtain an authoritative ruling from the High Court under Sections 40 and 41 of Act XVIII of 1869.

(A true copy and extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 1284.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14*th May* 1875.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sayelgudi, 20th March 1875, No. 119:—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th January 1875, No. 54, I have the honor to submit translation of an order passed by the Acting Deputy-Collector on General duties, and to request an authoritative ruling on the question whether sale certificates issued under Sections 35 and 40 of Act VIII of 1865 should be stamped. The order passed by the Acting Deputy-Collector appears to me to be wrong.

ENCLOSURE NO. 1.

Translation of order issued by the Acting Deputy-Collector on General duties Madras, to the Tahsildar of Madura, dated 8th March 1875.

Read your arzi, dated March 1875, No. 161, sent in reply to this office order, dated 30th January last, No. 110. It appears that Alagappa Kone of Madura and others request that certificates should be given to them for lands purchased by them in sales held under Act VIII of 1865. It has not as yet been authoritatively decided whether such certificates should be on stamp paper or not. It appears from your arzi dated 2nd September 1874, No. 540, to have been the practice hitherto to issue such certificates on unstamped paper. Continue, therefore, to do so till the matter is authoritatively decided. The enclosures to your arzi under reference are herewith returned.

(Signed) T. APPAJI ROW,
Acting Deputy-Collector.

(True Translation.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

The question for determination is whether certificates of sale issued under Sections 35 and 40 of Act VIII of 1865 are to be written on stamped paper.

2. The Collector of Madura having been instructed to pass an order in a case of the kind, and submit it to the Board with a view to an authoritative ruling being obtained, has decided that such sale certificates should be stamped as conveyances under Article 15, Schedule I of Act XVIII of 1869, the stamp duty being borne by the purchaser under Clause 4, Section 6 of the Act.

3. The Board have held that certificates under Section 38, Act II of 1864, are not liable to stamp duty on the ground that they are not conveyances as shown by the form prescribed for such documents; but no form is laid down for certificates under Act VIII of 1865, nor does it appear from the Act what the effect of the certificate is, or how the purchaser is to enforce the right evidenced thereby.

Proceedings, 27th August 1874, No. 2420.

4. The High Court have ruled that sale certificates issued by Civil Courts under Section 259, Civil Procedure Code, are instruments declaring an interest in property, and must therefore, if the value exceeds Rupees 100, be registered, and

Proceedings, 18th November 1871, No. 1805.

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the Inspector-General of Registration has instructed his subordinates to treat them as deeds of sale executed by the Courts granting them.

5. The Board are of opinion that certificates issued under Act VIII of 1865 are just as much deeds of sale and should be treated as conveyances, the stamp duty being borne by the grantee. They concur, therefore, in the view expressed by the Collector.

(True copies and extract.)
(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 1286.

From C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to T. WEIR, Esq., Acting Registrar High Court, Appellate Side.

Sir,—I am directed to request that you will lay the accompanying Proceedings of the Board, in which they have stated a case under Section 41, Act XVIII of 1869, before the Honorable the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Revenue Board Office,
Madras, 14*th May* 1875.

No. 2420.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th August 1874.

Read the following letters:—

From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 27th July 1874, No. 163.

I have the honor to submit, for the orders of the Board of Revenue, copy of a letter* from the Deputy Collector of Madras, inquiring whether sale certificates for lands sold for arrears of revenue require to be stamped under Act XVIII of 1869.

* Letter dated 20th July 1874, No. 1008.

2. In their Proceedings dated 14th October 1870, No. 6121, the Board declared these certificates to be exempt from stamp-duty under Article 15, Section 15 of the above Act. I doubt, however, if this ruling is correct. The article referred to is limited in application, and refers only to those cases where but for the exemption Government would have had to pay the stamp-duty. In the case of the sale certificates which fall under the head "conveyances," the parties liable to furnish the stamp-paper are the persons in whose favor they are executed, and not Government (*vide* Clause 4, Section 6 of the Act). I therefore think that the exemption does not apply.

3. If the Board concur with me, all the certificates issued subsequent to 1st January 1870, the date on which the General Stamp Act came into force, will have to be called in and stamped as in the case of the quit-rent indentures under G. O. dated 1st May 1874, No. 522, Revenue Department.

Enclosure No. 1.

From R. RAGOONATHA ROW, Deputy Collector, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated 20th July 1874, No. 1008.

In their Order No. 522, dated 1st May last, the Madras Government, on reviewing their Proceedings of 17th March last, No. 353, having decided that all deeds, instruments or writings made by or on behalf of Government should bear a stamp-duty, I have the honor to request your instructions as to the mode in which the instructions are to be carried out with reference to the sale certificates granted to parties for lands purchased by them in auction held by Government for arrears of revenue. Heretofore these instruments were exempt from stamp-duty under orders of Board of Revenue No. 260—6121, dated 14th October 1870. I beg to request that you will inform me if this ruling of the Board is still in force, and if not, whether these certificates are to be impressed at the Stamp Superintendent's Office, and whether before or subsequent to the affixing of signature by the Collector.

(True copy.)
(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 20th July 1874, No. 257.

In their Proceedings of the 14th October 1870, No. 6121, the Board concurred in the opinion of the Collector of Madura in thinking that certificates of sale issued under Section 38 of Act II of 1864, fall under exemption 15 in Section 15 of the General Stamp Act No. XVIII of 1869, and they have accordingly cancelled Standing Circular Order No. 19 of 1869, which provided that such certificates must be stamped, and the expense borne by the purchasers.

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2. From the Board's Proceedings of the 15th April last, No. 885, it appears that certain documents executed by, or on behalf of Government, are liable to stamp duty, the stamp thereon being payable by the grantee. I request the Board's instructions as to whether certificates of sale under Act II of 1864 should be drawn on stamped papers.

A reference to the form of sale certificates issued under Section 58, Act II of 1864 (form No. 8, page 283, Board's Standing Orders) shows that such documents are not conveyances as defined by the General Stamp Act.

3. The Board are of opinion that the expense of providing the stamp duty leviable thereon, if any, would devolve upon the Government under Section 6, and that such certificates are, therefore, exempt under Clause 15, Section 15 of the Act.

(True copies and extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Judgment of High Court:—19th October 1875.

Certificates of sale, issued under Sections 35 and 40 of Act VIII of 1865, cannot, we think, be regarded as conveyances subject to the stamp duty.

The certificate under Section 259 of the Code of Civil Procedure has, by virtue of the express provisions of that section, the effect of an instrument of transfer or conveyance. In the absence of any such provisions, a certificate under the Act of 1865, of the fact of sale and other matters therein mentioned, cannot be converted into a conveyance.

HIGH COURT—BOMBAY.

[*Appellate Civil Jurisdiction.*]

WEST AND PINHEY, JJ.

Civil Procedure Code, Sec. 15—*Declaratory Decree —Consequential relief—Act XI of* 1843—*Patil —Suit for declaration of plaintiff's eligibility to the office of Patil.*

Where a plaintiff sued for a declaration of his eligibility to the office of Patil, *if elected under the provisions of Act XI of* 1843, *he having been obliged to sue to establish his eligibility in consequence of the defendant's persistent denial of the plaintiff's claim to such eligibility, whereby the revenue authorities were induced to refuse to recognise it:*

HELD, *that the suit was cognisable by a Civil Court.*

HELD *also, that such a suit would lie, even when the object of it was only to enable the plaintiff to influence the revenue authorities by showing that the Civil Court had declared him eligible for office as* Patil.

Abaji Sankroji v. *Niloji Baloji* (2, Bom. H. C. Rep., 342) and *Yesaji Apaji* v. *Yesaji Mhaloji* (8, Bom. H. C. Rep., A. C. J., 35) distinguished.

S. A. 218 *of* 1874.

Ningangavda Patil *v.* Satyangavda Patil.*

THIS was a special appeal from the decision of N. Daniell, Acting Judge at Dharwar, reversing the decree of Shrinivas Krishna, Subordinate Judge of Gadak.

This suit was instituted by Ningangavda for the purpose of establishing his right to officiate as *Patil* of the village of Kurhatti. He alleged that he, the defendant Satyangavda, and one Makangavda were full brothers, and that they each had a right to officiate as *Patil* in turn, but that in 1869 the defendant took objection to the plaintiff's right so to officiate, in consequence of which objection the revenue authorities refused to recognise his claim to the *Patilship*. The defence chiefly was the denial of the plaintiff's right to the *Patilship*, and that the action could not be maintained in the Civil Court, as the power to nominate to the office of *Patil* when not exercised by the sharers, was vested absolutely in the Collector. The Subordinate Judge, Rav Saheb Shrinivas Krishna, held the plaintiff's claim proved, and declared him entitled to officiate as *Patil*, as prayed for. In appeal, however, that decision was reversed by Mr. Daniell, on the preliminary ground that such an action was not maintainable in the Civil Court.

He observed :—

"The first point for decision is :—Has this Court or the lower Court jurisdiction in this matter? This action is for a declaratory decree that the plaintiff is entitled to officiate as *Patil* of his village, and the Vakil for the respondent (plaintiff) represents that the consequential relief derivable from the decree sought will be a revision by the revenue authorities of their order refusing to recognise his right. It is not disputed by the appellant (defendant) that the respondent is a sharer in the *watan*,

* "Republished from XI, *Madras Jurist*, p. 15."—ED. *R. R.*

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although there is a denial that he has a right by origin to a specific share in the property, according to the appellant and other near relatives, the respondent having been adopted by a distant member of the family, whose share is less than the share of the appellant. * * * The Collector's order is Exhibit No. 50 in evidence; from it I gather that the Collector rejects the respondent's claim to officiate, not on the ground that he does not belong to the *watandar* family, but on the ground that he has never officiated. * * * I cannot see that any consequential relief can accrue upon a decree in accordance with the plaint. The Vakeel for the respondent wishes me to try and decide the question of adoption, but this is not a question at issue as affecting the title to officiate, and I must decline to entertain it. I must follow the rulings in *Yesaji Apaji* v. *Yesaji Mhaloji** and *Abaji* v. *Niloji*.† Were the suit to establish a right to share in the *watan* which had been ignored, consequential relief might follow a favourable award; but it has never been denied that the respondent is a sharer, and any decision of mine according to the terms of the plaint would not advance the respondent's claim to officiate. I must decide on the issue that this Court and the lower Court have not jurisdiction. The decree of the lower Court is reversed, and the claim is dismissed with costs."

The special appeal was argued before West and Pinhey, J. J., on the 16th November 1874.

Janardhan Sakharam Gadgil for the appellant:—The sole question is whether a Civil Court has jurisdiction in such a case. The cases cited by the District Court do not apply, as they relate only to *Vadil*, which is not recognised by Act XI of 1843. The right to sue for such a declaration as is now sought has been recognised by this Court:—R. A. No. 57 of 1871 (*Yelluppagavda* v. *Ningava*), decided 13th March 1872, by Melvil and Kemball, J. J.;‡ R. A. No. 72 of 1871 (*Nungangavda* v. *Malapagavda*), decided 17th June 1872 by Lloyd and Kemball, J. J.;* R. A. No. 73 of 1871 (*Venktesh* v. *Shivsangappa*), decided 24th June 1872, by Lloyd and Kemball, J. J.;† and R. A. No. 74 of 1873 (*Hanmantgavda* v. *Mhivangavda*), decided 21st September 1874, by West and Nanabhai Haridas, J. J.‡

[West, J., referred to *Sadat Alikhan* v. *Khajeh Abdul Gani*.]§

Shivshankar Govindram for the respondent:—The decisions cited for the plaintiff were passed before Act XXIII of 1871 came into operation.

* 8 Bom. H. C. Rep. A. C. J. 35. † 2 *Idem*, 342.

‡ The following extracts from the judgment of the Court bear on the point:—

"It is proved, and is, indeed, admitted, that the plaintiff is an equal sharer with the first defendant, and there is nothing in the evidence to rebut the presumption arising from this equality, or to prove the first defendant's exclusive right to officiate. It appears that until recently the *Inamdar* appointed any sharer in the *watan* who paid him the highest *nazarana*. Under this system, the plaintiff has occasionally been appointed. There is, therefore, no proof of any recognised family custom, by virtue of which the elder branch of the family has alone officiated.

"We think that the plaintiff should have a declaratory decree that the first defendant's branch of the family has not any exclusive right to officiate, and that the plaintiff is entitled, as an equal sharer with the first defendant, to any privileges which Act XI of 1873, or any other Act defining the rights of sharers in such *watans*, confers upon the sharers, including the right to officiate as *Patil* if duly appointed. We cannot give him a more definite decree than this, for we cannot compel the Collector to recognise the nomination of the plaintiff by the sharers, should such nomination be made, nor to appoint him if the sharers should make no nomination."

* The part of the judgment bearing on the question is as follows:—

"With respect to the second issue, it has been found by the lower Court that the plaintiff is entitled to an eight annas' share of the *watan*, and this finding is not now questioned, and as the right to officiate as *Patil* naturally appertains to the *watan*, and it has not been shown that the first defendant enjoys any special privilege to officiate in perpetuity to the exclusion of other sharers, we consider that we are justified in granting the declaratory order sought for, though it is not the province of this Court in any way to control the power of appointment which the Collector possesses under Act XI of 1843."

† The material part of the judgment is the following:—

"It is not denied that the plaintiff is in possession of the lands appertaining to the *Patilship*, and as the right to officiate as *Patil* is incidental to the possession of the *watan*, and the defendant has failed to show any exclusive right to officiate in the office, he is, we find, entitled to the declaratory decree sought for, and we, therefore, reverse the decree of the Court below, and declare the plaintiff entitled to officiate as *Patil*, though this decree will not in any way affect the power of the Collector under Act XI of 1843."

‡ The following is the judgment:—

"West, J.:—The position of the plaintiff as a member of a *watandar* family is admitted. The presumption with reference to such a family is that all the members of all the branches have a right to their turns of office in succession. This presumption in the present case is not rebutted by the long tenure of office by the father of defendant No. 1, because such a tenure of office was not inconsistent with the right of the plaintiff's branch to take the duties in their turn. It is not proved that the office descended even for one generation exclusively in the branch to which defendant No. 1 belongs: all that appears is that he has come in after his father, and his succession is disputed. The selection of his father by the then *Inamdar* in 1817 proves nothing in favour of an exclusive right confined to his branch; it was quite consistent with the existence of those rights diffused throughout the family, which generally subsisted, and which the British Government made the basis of the arrangements provided for by Act XI of 1843. We, therefore, confirm the decree of the Assistant Judge with costs."

§ 11 Beng. L. Rep. 227 (P. C.)

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Sections 3 and 4 of that Act prevent suits such as this being entertained.

PINHEY, J.:—We are of opinion that the District Court was in error in refusing to consider this claim on its merits on the ground that the Civil Court has no jurisdiction over the subject-matter of this suit. The cases cited by the District Court in support of its judgment, *Abaji Sankroji Bhonsle* v. *Niloji Baloji Bhonsle** and *Yesaji Apaji Patil* v. *Yesaji Mhaloji*† are not in point. In both those suits the plaintiffs sought to be declared *Vadil*, or elder among the holders of a *Patilki watan*, but as the position of *Vadil* amongst *watandars* is not recognized by Act XI of 1843, and, therefore, a declaration by the Court as to who is *Vadil* among a family of *watandar Patil* would not in any way entitle a person to claim the office of *Patil* to the exclusion of other members of the family, nor even establish any preference in his favour, the Court, in both the cases cited, declared that the claim would not lie, as upon such declaration no consequential relief could be given. The ground of the decision, so far as the claim was brought for the purpose of influencing the Collector, is very particularly noticed in the earlier of the two cases, that in the 2nd volume.

The claim of the plaintiff in the present case is altogether different. In this case, the plaintiff seeks to get a decree, declaring his eligibility to the office of *Patil*, if elected under the provisions of Act XI of 1843; and he has been obliged to sue to establish his eligibility, because his claim to be eligible has been persistently denied by the defendant, and the objections taken by the defendant have induced the revenue authorities to refuse to recognize his eligibility. That such a suit is cognizable by a Civil Court has been repeatedly recognized by the decisions of this Court (it is only necessary to refer to Special Appeal 57 of 1871, decided 13th March 1872, and Regular Appeal 73 of 1871, decided 24th June 1872, and Regular Appeal 74 of 1873, decided 21st September 1874): and that such a suit will lie, even when the object of it is only to enable the plaintiff to influence the revenue authorities by showing that he has been declared by the Civil Court eligible for office as *Patil*, is further supported by the remarks made by their lordships of the Privy Council in *Sadat Alikhan* v. *Khajeh Abdul Gani*.

We, therefore, reverse the decree of the District Court, and remand the case to the District Court for retrial on its merits. Costs to follow the final decision.

Decree reversed and case remanded.

—*Bombay High Court Reports*, Vol. XI, p. 232.

* 2 Bom. H. C. Rep. 342.
† 8 *Idem*, A. C. J. 35.

HER MAJESTY'S PRIVY COUNCIL.

[OUDH CASE.]

Mortgage—Sub-mortgage—Original mortgagor's right to redeem.

A mortgaged a taluka to B. B died, and C, his widow, sub-mortgaged it to D. The original mortgage was of an usufructory nature, and contained a clause giving A power to redeem. The question was whether D, who was in possession, claimed under B, or as a stranger. The evidence went to show that the alleged sub-mortgage was a fact, and D did not prove that he obtained possession in any other way.

HELD, *that D had asserted, but not proved, his title under B; and that A had a right to redeem the taluka; the usufruct of the land being set off against the interest paid.*

Judgment of the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council on the appeal of *Rajah Ameer Hussun Khan* v. *Mukhdoom Singh* and others, from the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, delivered 25th June 1875.

Present.

SIR JAMES W. COLVILE.
SIR BARNES PEACOCK.
SIR MONTAGUE E. SMITH.
SIR ROBERT P. COLLIER.

THIS is an appeal from a decision of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh, which affirmed the judgments of the Assistant Commissioner, and of the Officiating Commissioner who heard the case on appeal from the Assistant Commissioner.

The suit was brought by Mukhdoom Singh, Mohun Singh, and Esree Singh against the Rajah Ameer Hussun Khan to redeem taluka Rawapoor, which they alleged had been mortgaged to one Oomrao Singh for Rupees 3,067, and after his death had got into the possession of the Rajah Nawab Ali Khan in consequence of a sub-mortgage from the widow of Oomrao Singh. The defendant (the present appellant) is the son of the Rajah Nawab Ali Khan, and his case appears to be that the Rajah was in possession from a period prior to the settlement in 1858; that in that year he was admitted as talukdar to the taluk, and he claims to hold it free of any claim on the part of the original mortgagors.

That the respondent, Mohun Singh, was entitled to the taluk, and mortgaged it to Oomrao

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Singh, is not disputed in the present appeal, nor was it disputed in the Courts below. The mortgage made to Oomrao Singh is of the English date of July 1846. It is a usufructory mortgage of a very formal and precise kind, and states that Mohun Singh, the son of Purtab Singh, mortgaged the taluk to Thakoor Oomrao Singh for the sum of Rupees 3,067, and fixes the amount of interest at "Rupees three and two annas per cent. per month." The mortgage also states that possession had been delivered to the mortgagee, and it contains this clause:—"I "moreover agree that whenever I be disposed to "redeem, I engage to repay every fraction of "a pie of the principal and interest in a lump "sum, at the time when crops are not standing "on the ground, at the end (fallow portion of "the agricultural year) of the month of Jeith, "and then have the estate redeemed."

It appears to be clear that the mortgagee, Oomrao Singh, was put into possession. It is admitted that, as against Oomrao Singh, the right to redeem has been in no way foreclosed or barred, and the question, and the only question in this case, upon the merits, is whether the Rajah Nawab Ali Khan came in under the mortgagee's title, or whether he came in as a stranger to it, so that he can hold the estate by virtue of title or possession against both the mortgagor and the original mortgagee. The Assistant Commissioner and the Officiating Commissioner have found as a fact that there was a sub-mortgage from the widow of Oomrao Singh to Rajah Nawab Ali. It is said that they have found this fact upon insufficient evidence. Undoubtedly the evidence is slight, but upon a review of it, and giving full weight to the considerations which have been presented by the learned counsel for the appellant, their lordships think that there is enough, in the absence of the proof which might have been expected from the defendant, to show that he did obtain possession in some way under the original mortgagee, either by a sub-mortgage, or by some arrangement with the widow of Oomrao Singh.

That the claim to treat the Rajah as a mortgagee was not put forward for the first time after the settlement, is clear from a petition, dated the 12th June 1856, of Mohun Singh. "After the usual petitionary address the peti- "tioner states that the estate of Rawapoor, "&c., the petitioner's ancestral landed pro- "perty, was mortgaged to Rajah Nawab Ali "Khan, and at the time the settlement was in "progress"—that is, the settlement before the mutiny—"the Court ordered the petitioner to "arrange for the payment of the redemption "money." That, of course, is no evidence that there was such a mortgage; but it is proof that the case upon which the plaintiffs now rely was put forward at this early period. The petition, no doubt, does not state that the mortgage was to Oomrao Singh, and that by sub-mortgage the land got into the possession of Nawab Ali Khan; but it sufficiently shows that it was then contended that in some way the Rajah held as mortgagee.

In the present suit the evidence consisted of two depositions of witnesses given at the time of the settlement, and of the evidence of one of the plaintiffs. The deposition of Amjud Ali, who was the vakeel of the Rajah Nawab Ali Khan at the settlement, has been mainly relied on by the Courts below. It seems that the Rajah was at that time a minor, and that his estate was under the care of the Commissioner. This deposition has the character of a statement of claim on the part of the minor Rajah; and treating it in that way, it certainly affords evidence that at that time the claim of the Rajah to a settlement was put on the ground that he was mortgagee. The statement in the deposition is this:—"The villages of Koom- "hurya and Mahurya were mortgaged by "Hoolas and Moonno Singh to Oomrao Singh, "Talukdar of Rihar, whose widow, after his "death either in 1254 or 1255 Fusly, re-mort- "gaged them, along with the taluka of Rawa- "poor, to my master. The deed of mortgage "is in my possession, and the amount is therein "mentioned. I do not remember the exact "amount; and ever since the re-mortgage we "have continued in possession." The Rajah was in possession. The vakeel had to account for his possession, and this is the statement which he gives, and upon which it appears that action was taken; for in 1264 Fusly, according to this man's statement, the lease was executed in favour of the Rajah. There is a deposition of Duryao Singh, Canoongoe of Tehsil Biswan, to the same effect; but that cannot be regarded as legitimate evidence, because it is not shown that the man was dead, and he certainly did not stand in the relation of agent to the Rajah.

Then there is the positive evidence of one of the plaintiffs who was examined in the present suit, Esree Singh, who is the grandson of Mohun Singh. He says:—"In 1254 Fusly "Mohun Singh mortgaged the estate in ques- "tion to Oomrao Singh for 3,067 Rupees. "One year after the date of the mortgage he "died. He was Talukdar of Rihar. His "widow mortgaged it to Rajah Nawab Ali "Khan for 5,200 Rupees in 1256 Fusly. Ever "since, up to the annexation, he held. No "term for redemption was fixed."

The original mortgage being beyond dispute, and there being this evidence that the Rajah held under a sub-mortgage, an answer was certainly called for on the part of the Rajah; and the answer he gives appears to be entirely unsatisfactory. He does not rely upon mere possession, and say, I got in as a trespasser, and

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am entitled to hold the taluk by virtue of possession and protected by the Statute of Limitations; but he sets up an affirmative title that the chuckladar leased it to him, and he has entirely failed to prove that title. He has asserted, but has not proved it. Their lordships think therefore that, under the circumstances, they cannot say that the two Commissioners, who found the facts, were wrong in coming to the conclusion that the Rajah did hold the taluk by some title derived from the original mortgagee; and, that being so, they think that the judgment of the Judicial Commissioner upon the main question should be supported. Mr. Capper, the Judicial Commissioner, who first heard the special appeal, differed from the Commissioners below, thinking the evidence was insufficient; but upon review, Mr. Currie came to the opposite conclusion. Therefore three Commissioners in Oudh have thought that this evidence was sufficient.

What has just been said disposes of the main question in the case.

Then another question arises, whether the decree of the Judicial Commissioner should stand with respect to the interest. It is immaterial to inquire whether the Judicial Commissioner had power to vary the decree of the officiating Commissioner in the way he has done, since their lordships have the whole record before them upon general appeal, and may direct the right order, if this be not the right one. Upon the construction of the original mortgage to Oomrao Singh, which must govern this question, it appears to them that the usufruct was to be set against the interest, and that it was not the intention of the parties that the mortgagee should have both the usufruct of the property and be paid interest at the stipulated rate of 43 per cent. from the time of the mortgage down to the period of redemption. It would require very clear words to induce their lordships to put such a construction upon the deed. (See on this point a judgment of this tribunal, *Seth Seetaram and another against Argoon Singh*, delivered on the 19th February 1874.) If it had been shown that the usufruct would not have amounted to the stipulated interest, other questions would have arisen, and possibly an account might have been decreed; but Mr. Cowie, on the part of the appellant, has exercised a wise discretion in desiring that the matter should remain, if their lordships were of opinion that he was not entitled both to the interest and the usufruct, where the Judicial Commissioner has placed it, so far as this claim to interest is concerned.

In the result their lordships will humbly advise Her Majesty to affirm the decree appealed from, and to dismiss this appeal, with costs.

CIRCULAR ORDER OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. XXI.

STANDING No. 230-4.

DESTRUCTION OF SPOILT STAMPS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1875, No. 3,240.

STANDING ORDER No. XXXIII of 1874 is hereby cancelled, and Standing Order No. II of 1874 revived. The procedure prescribed by the latter order in regard to the destruction of spoilt stamps should be strictly observed.

OFFICIAL PAPER.

SALT CULTURE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th September 1875.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th June 1875, No. 1804:—

Read the following letter from Surgeon J. J. L. RATTON, M.D., Madras Army, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 4th March 1875.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, pursuant to instructions contained in the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 30th October 1874, received by me on the 28th December, I went to the India Office on the 31st December to make inquiries, and applied also, by letter on the same date, to the Under-Secretary of State for India for the credentials to enable me to visit with facility the salt manufactories in the south of France.

2. I found on inquiry at the India Office that no previous intimation had been received there on the subject of my visit, and that it would take more than a week to obtain the necessary credentials from France. Under the circumstances, although my privilege leave would not expire until the 31st January, and although in any case the time of my departure had not yet arrived, I determined to proceed at once to the south of France, and commence work either with or without the credentials as best I could. The brief interval at my disposal to visit the salt-pans and travel to India before the 28th February seemed to me to necessitate prompt action. I left London, therefore, on

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the morning of the 3rd January, and making inquiries by the way, reached Montpellier, the head-quarters of the salt manufacturing industry on the Mediterranean Coast, on the 7th January. Soon after my arrival, I applied personally to M. Mion, Representative of the *Compagnie des Salins du Midi Société Anonyme*, proprietors of the most extensive and best conducted of the salt concerns on the south coast of France, and from him learnt as follows :—

3. The French Government do not make their own or any salt. There are a large number of salt manufactories on the Mediterranean Coast, and a yet larger number of small ones on the Biscayen Coast, possessed by individuals or by companies as private property. These make as much salt as they can without restriction or interference on the part of Government, but, for every ton of salt they sell in France, they have to pay the Government a *droit* or tax of one hundred francs. To ensure the due collection of the tax, Government requires that the salt-pans be arranged and the salt stored in a manner to enable the Customs officers effectually to guard against smuggling and fraud. The Government itself maintains a guard of *Douaniers* at the pans, whose duty it is, as in India, to prevent contraband, and to weigh or assist at the weighing of all salt delivered for home or inland consumption, and observe the amount. The tax is collected accordingly. It is interesting to note that these Customs officials are chosen from the army; that none but soldiers who have received a good conduct badge are eligible; and that the rate of pay in the Customs Department is higher than in the army. No tax is levied on export salt.

4. Having ascertained that the French Government had nothing to do with the actual conduct of salt manufacture in France, I commenced my inquiries at once, without hesitation, without the credentials. I represented the matter to M. Mion, to whose great courtesy I here very thankfully testify my indebtedness, and was told by him, in reply, that he would do everything in his power to facilitate my work. In fact, a day was appointed for visiting the salt-works of Le Perrier and Aigues Mortes, adjoining manufactories situated about two hours' railway journey from Montpellier, and on the 11th January, as agreed on, accompanied by M. Mion, junior, from the office, M. Alfred Gervais, Chief Inspecting Engineer, and M. Espinaski, Engineer in charge of the works, I went down to Aigues Mortes. I must here return my best thanks to these gentlemen for their undeviating kindness and solicitous attention to afford me every information during the two days, the greater part of which they were good enough to spend with me plodding through the salt-pans.

5. Before alluding further to Aigues Mortes, I will sketch the arrangement of this report. First, I may mention that I had no difficulty whatever in visiting the French salt-works, except the difficulty of finding them out and getting at them in out-of-the-way localities. M. Mion very kindly gave me letters of recommendation to the agents in charge of the other important stations belonging to his company, and at those salt-works belonging to private individuals that I visited, I encountered always the most obliging civility. I will first name the salt-works that I visited, with dates and a few brief remarks concerning their position and importance, without describing them in detail, as they are so much alike that their several descriptions would be neither useful nor interesting. Then I will describe the French system of salt manufacture as a whole. Afterwards, I will take up each part of the manufacturing arrangements, and examine, in detail, into its uses, construction, &c. Finally, I will compare the French system with ours, and suggest such improvements in our method as the comparison may seem to indicate.

6. The adjoining salt-works of Le Perrier and Peccais, the latter commonly called Aigues Mortes, are situated close by the Mediterranean, at the southern edge of the Department Gard; they were visited by me on the 11th and 12th January. Both of these works are situated on a sandy portion of the Mediterranean shore, which is lower than the sea-level on an average by eighteen inches. They are surrounded by embankments, about six feet in height, both to protect them from the not infrequent risings of the Rhone and from the sea; for although the sea is tideless, its water-level often mounts two feet or more on this coast during the prevalence of westerly and southerly gales. The extent of embankment may be inferred from the fact that Le Perrier occupies a surface of 293 acres, and that the Aigues Mortes salt-works extend uninterruptedly over a belt of ground ten miles long by four broad on the average. Sea-water, which here on the Mediterranean Coast has a density equal to 3·5° Beaumé, is brought to the pans in a large navigable canal nine feet in depth at the works, and usually about twelve feet deep on the bar. Its depth varies; but it is not liable to be blocked up with sand or flooded with fresh water. The same canal, where it enters the works, is furnished with a lock, the top of which is flush with the embankments, partly to regulate the admission of water and partly to keep out floods. Subsoil brine marking 12° Beaumé is found abundantly at about three feet from the surface, but is not made use of in salt manufacture. Fresh water, for the use of the work-people, &c., is obtained at a depth of 150 feet, and brought to the surface by means of Artesian wells. It was ascertained, when sinking these wells, that the soil on which the pans rest is pure sand to a depth of forty yards. About fifty Customs

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officials at ten different points or stations patrol and guard these works. They are the most important salt-works in the south of France.

7. On the 16th of January I visited the salt-pans of Le Berre about fifty miles north-east of Marseilles in the Department Bouches-du-Rhone. These works are situated on a sandy promontory on the north or mainland side of the Etang-du-Berre. The Etang-du-Berre is an enormous shallow estuary, occupying a surface of 143 square miles, formed by two mountain ranges which run out from the mainland about twenty miles, inclining towards each other in their course, so as to form a semi-circular sea-basin girt in by hills; the hills do not meet, however, but leave an opening or sea-gate between them, so small as to be invisible from the shore. Numerous streams and rivers, the mouths of the Rhone, discharge into this estuary; its outlet being small as described, it follows that the water must be weak; in fact, it never exceeds 2° Beaumé in strength. The works are at a lower level than the sea; they are surrounded by embankments to prevent inundation, and water flows into them naturally from the lake through canals provided with sluice-gates. There are a great number of salt manufactories round the lake, of which those called Le Berre are the most extensive. They are five miles long by about three miles broad, and are probably the most important works in Provence; the manager, who showed me round these pans, obtained a Silver Medal for salt at the Paris Exhibition of 1856. He gave me some specimens of the identical salt which gained the prize, which I have much pleasure in forwarding to the Board. It is hard, firm, heavy, dry, translucent, and rings with a metallic sound.

8. On the 19th January, I visited the salt-works known as Les Vieux Salins d'Hyères, belonging to the Compagnie du Midi in the Department Var. These works are seven or eight miles in circumference, and are about the largest in the department. As usual, they are on sandy soil below the sea-level, and surrounded by protecting embankments. The embankments are raised to keep out sea incursions, no fresh water inundations being to be feared here as in the neighbourhood of the Rhone. Sea-water, averaging 3·5° Beaumé in density, flows naturally to the pans through canals cut from the sea at different points. A navigable canal traverses the works: there is good anchorage for shipping in the vicinity, and they enjoy perhaps the largest share of the salt export trade in the province.

9. On the 21st January, I visited the Salins des Pecheurs or Salins Neuf; Compagnie de M. Girard, on the Toulon or west side of the last station, and about seven miles from Toulon. This is also an extensive and important salt manufactory, chiefly engaged in the export trade. I had cause to admire here the extent and completeness of the mechanical arrangements for facilitating salt transport and storage, the position of the crystallising beds with reference to the platforms, the construction of the latter, the use of tramways, piers, &c. When describing these parts of the French system, I will keep the Salins Neuf before me as a model. In other respects these pans do not differ in any way from those last mentioned.

10. On the 26th January, I visited the salt-pans of Martigues, Bouches-du-Rhone, about two hours' railway journey from Marseilles. There are numerous salt-works scattered round Martigues on the borders of creeks running towards the Etang-du-Berre. They are comparatively small and possess no features of special interest. The one which I examined most attentively belonged to M. Joseph Dol. It resembles in all respects those already noticed.

11. On the 27th January, in consequence of information I received from a salt trader at Marseilles, I visited the salt-pans of Le Fos, rather inaccessibly situated on the sea or outer edge of the eastern chain of hills enclosing the Etang-du-Berre. I was informed that the best salt obtainable in France was made there. When I arrived, I found workmen busily employed in removing a thick incrustation of calcic sulphate from the condenser's floors, preparatory to commencing manufacture. The manager, who accompanied me, kindly presented me with a fragment of the crystalline gypsum so removed. He also gave me a specimen of salt manufactured the previous year. These specimens are herewith forwarded to the Board. I could discover no reason why salt should be made better here than elsewhere, unless it be owing to the fact which I noticed, that there is less sand and more clay in the soil here than at the other stations I visited. This is the last station that I had time to visit, as I left Marseilles for Madras on the 31st January. At no station had I an opportunity of seeing manufacturing operations actually in progress.

12. A French saline, such as I have seen it and heard it described, consists essentially of a large tract of waste shore-land, fifteen to twenty square miles in area, at a lower level than the neighbouring sea, protected from inundation and cultivated for salt. The salt-pans are divided into *Partie Exterieur*, *Partie Interieur*, *Avant Pieces*, *Tables Salant*, and Reservoirs, which I will call for the future in this report, outer condensers, inner condensers, finishing condensers, crystallising or salt-beds, and reservoirs, respectively. There are also platforms, &c., which need not be noticed as yet. The condensers and reservoirs occupy 78 per cent. of the evaporating surface, the salt-bed the remaining 22 per cent. A canal brings brin

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from the sea or estuary, as the case may be, to the works, and first to the outer condensers, into which it flows naturally, as they are at a lower level than the sea. At the commencement of manufacture brine is retained, spread out in a thin sheet in the first system of condensers for seven or eight days, until it reaches 8° Beaumé in strength. It is then passed into the inner condensers, generally also by natural gravitation. Here the brine, still spread out shallowly, is allowed to evaporate until it reaches about 18° Beaumé. Then it is pumped up to the finishing condensers, and is passed slowly from one to another of these until it reaches the salt-beds, its passage being so regulated that it shall mark 25° Beaumé by that time. These preliminaries take about fifteen days. The brine from the finishing condensers is allowed to gravitate into the salt-beds, which are filled to a depth of about ten inches, and replenished from time to time during salt formation with additional brine, so as to secure that its strength shall not at any time exceed 29° Beaumé. This continues until a bed of salt about two inches in thickness has formed, when the bitterns are drawn off for the supply of some less advanced bed, and the salt is collected by means of wooden shovels in the dry state. The whole duration of manufacture from first to last is about five months, that is, from April to August or September. The time allowed for salt crystallisation on the beds is three months.

13. The condensers are not arranged in concentric circles surrounding the salt-beds, nor in regular progression towards them, as might perhaps be supposed from their names and the foregoing description. Such an arrangement is seldom or never practicable without going to great expense. Simply natural undulations of ground are made use of in salt manufacture in the best way that their circumstances will allow. A site possessing the requisite qualifications having been selected, a large portion of it, and that at the highest level, is apportioned off to the outer condensers. As all alluvial deposits or silted sands have a slope in one direction or another, and the outer condensers extend over two or three linear miles of ground, the whole of the tract that they comprise is never at the same level. They are divided, therefore, by cross bunds into communicating compartments, and sea-water is admitted first into that which is at the highest level, and thence flows to the lowest. If the conformation or slope of the ground will allow of it, as it often does, the inner condensers, which also occupy a large tract of ground, begin where the outer end. They are also divided into compartments through which the brine flows from the highest to the lowest. Arrived at the lowest inner condenser after winding about from the sea, from one compartment to another, a long sinuous tract in which every variation in level has been taken advantage of, the brine has usually reached the lowest level in the whole saline or salt-work. From here, then, it is pumped up to the first compartment of the smaller system of finishing condensers, probably at the same level or at a higher level than the first outer condenser, whence it gravitates to the last compartment, and so on to the salt-beds which are on a slope, so that the brine can flow from one to another from first to last, or, by means of a channel, can pass by nearer beds and fill those further off. Sometimes the brine has to be pumped up from the last outer to the first inner condenser, and sometimes, though not so often, as these two parts together occupy a comparatively small space, from the last finishing condenser to the first salt-bed.

14. The floors of the condensers are not prepared in any way, and after manufacturing operations have been once fairly started the flow of brine through their compartments is not much looked after, as the sluices being left open, just manage to supply daily the amount of brine removed by evaporation, so that uniformity is maintained without trouble. This can be arranged by a simple calculation. The brine that is left in the finishing condensers at the end of the season, called *virgin* brine, and I suppose also the strong brine in the last few inner condenser compartments, is pumped off to reservoirs at a high level, where it remains stored to a depth of three feet throughout the winter and until the commencement of the next manufacturing season, when it is, according to its strength, transferred to the inner condensers, finishing condensers, or salt-beds. At the salt stations I visited in January, this brine varied from 15° to 22° Beaumé in strength. At the end of the season the mother-liquors are got rid of by being drained off or pumped out to sea according to the level of the salt-beds. There is not that amount of mother-liquor to get rid of that might be supposed from the fact that brine is not ordinarily evaporated beyond 29° Beaumé, as it is customary to make a certain amount of a comparatively inferior description of salt, in separate tables, from "used brine" at 29° Beaumé. This salt, formed between 29° and 32° Beaumé, is in great demand for fish-curing and for the manufacture of soda, and is sold exclusively for those purposes.

15. One square yard of crystallising surface at an average salt station yields 110 lb. of salt in thirty days, but this must not be confounded with the mean produce of the salt-works per square yard. A cubic yard of the salt is said to weigh 168 lb. The salt when collected is stored on raised platforms as in India, and stacked in heaps of from 500 to 2,000 tons

each, covered usually with tiles. The cost of manufacture is nearer five than six francs a ton, and that includes everything to the completion of the heap, its covering, and maintenance of establishment. There is a permanent establishment of about 100 men and 60 mules at Aigues Mortes. The platforms are flanked by tramways or canals; when salt is sold, a heap is broken up, and the salt, tied up in sacks, is put on board boats or removed in waggons. I will recur to the weighing process afterwards.

16. *Embankments.*—The embankments surrounding the works at Aigues Mortes, Bouches-du-Rhone, are about six feet high, twenty-five yards across the base, and have six feet of pathway on top. At other stations the embankments are of less dimensions according to their wants. All were, when I examined them, covered with vegetation, although originally formed with sand, and this because clay had been brought and placed upon them; brushwood, &c. planted and encouraged to grow, turf engrafted, and every care taken to put and preserve them in good order.

17. *Canals.*—There are commonly two or three supply-canals cut from the sea at different points to bring brine to the outer condensers, of which again there may be more than one set according to the local conformation of the ground. One canal, at all events larger and deeper than the others, is navigable, and is so arranged as to facilitate locomotion and the transport of salt. These canals have their opening sometimes blocked up with sand, seaweed, &c., by the wind and waves as in India, but their maintenance is carefully attended to. They are provided with sluice-gates both to keep out the sea and floating debris, and are staked along their sides to keep the sand from falling in. Brushwood, reeds, &c. of a suitable kind are planted along their slopes to consolidate and preserve them. Boats are towed in the canals by mules, for whose use a tow-path is constructed at one side, and bridges are placed at different points of the canal to enable workmen, carts, mules, &c., to cross. These bridges are simply flat-bottomed boats, boarded over, and tied at each end with cords to a slightly projecting pier or staging, so that when one set of cords is let go the bridge swings to the opposite side, the side to which it is attached giving free passage to boats coming along the canal.

18. *Channels.*—From the main supplying canal, numerous channels branch off in every direction, running along the sides of the different systems of condensers and of the salt-beds, crossing each other frequently, sometimes by means of wooden aqueducts of the ordinary kind, sometimes by means of what are locally termed syphons according as they may be at the same or at different levels. A syphon here means an underground wooden aqueduct, and is used when two channels at the same level meet at an angle, so that one may dip under the other and come to the surface again. These channels communicate with the condensers, &c., which at different points they can either supply or drain by means of wooden sluice-gates; they communicate with each other and with the main canal in the same way, and all have a *rendezvous* at the pumping station, which is the centre of operations for the whole salt-work. By means of these channels and a pump hereafter to be described, the manager can pump any one of the brine receptacles, by whatever name called, dry, or pump it full again with sea-water or brine from any part of the works without touching or interfering with any other part, save the two for the time being placed in communication. This is not a theoretical advantage; it is one of great practical utility, and is constantly made use of. At important points,—wherever, in fact, it is necessary,—the sluice-gates are set in masonry frames. Sometimes also, where two channels at the same level meet at a right angle, their point of intersection is made a waterway common to both by means of four sluice-gates,—a pair to each channel, one pair being closed, the other channel possesses the way and *vice versâ*; but this arrangement is not practicable where both channels are important and in constant use.

19. *Condensers.*—The condensers,—outer, inner, and finishing,—have their sides staked and planted with brushwood to preserve them. They are but shallow sandy basins, and the brine stored in them seldom exceeds an average depth of three inches. The mean level of their floors is about eighteen inches below sea-level, but they seldom approach nearer to the sea than 100 yards, and extend away from it for miles. As before stated, their floors are not prepared in any way, and I think they must leak a good deal. The engineers say there can be no great leakage, because brine 12° Beaumé in density is found below the surface. Now it is a fact that brines of different densities being of different weights, will rest one upon another, and though transfusion or dialysis takes place, this is so slow a process as to be scarcely worth considering where the top layer of brine is constantly on the move. On the other hand, subsoil brine is not found immediately in contact with the condenser floors, but in the sand from one to three feet deeper, so that brine leaking into the stratum between the two must be removed, to a certain extent, by lateral drainage and ultimately lost, or effused into intersecting channels as may chance to be the case. And, again, the subsoil brine would, in any case, only protect the outer condensers from leakage. It would not protect those condensers containing brine at above 13° Beaumé, for, as the brine increases in density and in

weight, it would penetrate more readily through the sand, and sink unimpeded through the subsoil brine.

20. *Salt-beds.*—The position of the salt-beds in the works and their precise arrangement is not, for obvious reasons, uniform throughout the different stations, but they are always either clustered together in parallel rows and surrounded by platforms and tramways or canals, or they run in a long line along the borders of the navigable canal, separated from it by a platform. Each salt-bed is usually about 80 yards long by 40 yards broad. In the first instance, the beds are levelled with great care. At some places, overlooking the sea, an ingenious method of levelling is practised, which might be of use in India. It is based on the assumption that a line drawn from the horizon at sea to the level of the eye of a man stooping is horizontal, and it is so practically for the purpose of levelling a large salt-bed. Two sticks are cut four feet in length, and their ends planed at right angles to their length. When these two sticks provided with plumb lines are held vertically, one by the observer, and the other by his assistant a few yards nearer the sea end in the line of sight looking towards the horizon, if the observer looks over the upper edge of his stick at the horizon, the upper edge of the other stick will be just tangent to his line of vision, if the two sticks are on level ground. If the assistant's stick obstruct the view, it is on higher ground, and the portion of stick between its upper edge and the point where the horizon cuts across it, is a measure of the difference of level. If the assistant's stick is not tangent to the line of vision but below it, the observer is on higher ground, and he can measure the difference of level on his own stick by lowering his eye down along its side until the point is reached where his eye, the top of assistant's stick, and the horizon are in one line. The work-people fancy that this is as good a way of levelling the salt-beds as any, and it is admitted on all hands to be the quickest and simplest way of doing it. Besides being levelled, the floors of the salt-beds are well hardened by being trampled under foot by mules, and are rolled with stone-rollers drawn by two men at the beginning of each season. Strange to say they are not clayed, though brine at from 25° to 29° Beaumé must, I think, escape, to some extent, through a sand flooring, however well compressed. It is said that the larger and deeper these tables are, the better will be the salt. As a rule, they are from twelve to fifteen inches deep, and are boarded round the sides to keep the paths from falling in. Wooden sluice-gates at intervals give ingress and egress to the brine.

21. *Salt Collecting.*—When a cake of salt about two inches in thickness has formed, the mother liquors are drained off from that bed, and the salt is collected in the dry state. The hardness of the floor allows of this being done without soiling the salt. A wooden shovel sometimes tipped with tin is used for this purpose. It is pushed under the salt, which is lifted up and heaped on one side in small mounds as clay might be, and left there to drain for eight or ten days. This is done by skilled laborers on the permanent establishment of the works. Afterwards, the salt is carried to the platforms and heaped by contract, as this part of the work being almost purely mechanical, there is no fear of injury being done through inferior or scamped work. Salt is removed from the pans to the heaps in wheel-barrows. Formerly, it was taken away in baskets as in India, but from experiments that have been lately made, it is found that barrows remove it quicker and more cheaply. Boards are laid down from the the salt-mounds to the platforms to enable the barrows to travel with greater facility.

22. *Platforms.*—The platforms are long narrow raised causeways from five to six feet high, and about ten yards broad on top, flanking the salt-beds on one side and flanked by a navigable canal on the other. Some of them have a tiled flooring at the places marked out for salt-heaps, others are boarded, and others again are merely gravelled and rolled hard. On some the position of the salt-heap is indicated by a low stone-wall forming a three-sided enclosure, on others the same thing is indicated by a similar arrangement of boards. Finally, many of them are traversed by a tramway.

23. *Salt Storage.*—The great bulk of the salt made at the pans is stored in the masonry or wooden frames open at one end, mentioned in last paragraph, within which the salt is heaped up so as to exactly resemble, when covered, a long low-tiled cottage with gable ends. Formerly, reeds, rushes, and straw were used for covering the salt, but now they are discarded everywhere in favor of tiles, and the wastage which was formerly about 10 per cent has been reduced almost to nothing, besides the tiles keep the salt much cleaner. So cleanly is the salt removed from the pans and preserved on the platforms that it is taken at once from the heaps and ground down in mills, of which there are always one or two at each station, for table use, without further preparation. The tiles are two feet long by one foot broad, and are bent or curved at right angles to their length. They weigh 7 kilogrammes or 15·4 lb. English, and cost 90 francs a thousand or less than a penny, and not much more than half an Anna a piece. The number of tiles required is easily ascertained by calculation when the superficies to be covered is known. Table salt ready ground for use is

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stored in godowns adjoining the mills. Salt for fish-curing and for the manufacture of soda is heaped coverless on the platforms.

24. *Salt.*—The salt-heaps that I examined were composed of salt very similar in appearance to that of Merkanum—a large number of firm lumps of salt made up of intercalated crystals scattered through the smaller debris of salt-cakes—but, on the other hand, the crystals were in every instance larger, firmer, cleaner, more translucent and dryer than those made in India. This salt is said to bear carriage with very little alteration or wastage. The table salt stored in the godown was perfectly white, dry, and finely ground, such salt, in fact, as one is accustomed to see on an English table.

25. *Weighment.*—When salt is going to be sold, a heap or as much of one as is wanted is untiled and attacked with picks and shovels at the open face of the enclosure and broken upright through, or as far as may be required. Two uprights support a beam, from which depends a pair of scales; in one scale is placed a weight of 100 kilogrammes or 220 lb. English; the other, funnel-shaped, holds the salt, and is of a size to hold 220 lb. and not much more. Salt is poured from baskets into the funnel, when the scales balance, a sack is held under the funnel, which again has a movable bottom, the bottom is let fall and the salt tumbles into a sack. A blow on the catch causes the bottom to fall, and it is replaced with equal facility. Ordinarily speaking, when a whole heap is being broken up, about twenty men are employed. Some with picks destroy the heap; others with shovels fill baskets; others carry the baskets to the weighing machine and weigh it; others fill the sacks and tie them up; and others carry the sacks on trucks either to the waggon or boat and arrange them on board. Not less than five men can do the work, and it has been ascertained that five men working in this way for six hours put twenty tons of salt away, or one man stows away on board a boat or tram-waggon four tons of salt in a day of six hours. It should be added that it is calculated that more would be done, only that the Customs officer who stands by keeping tally for Government, has the power, and frequently exercises it, of reweighing the salt. As no tax is levied on export salt, salt for exportation is not weighed, but sold by measure to save time; for, as it is always made in precisely the same way, there is a constant relation between weight and measure, which being once ascertained, the salt may be economically sold by measure. For this purpose, salt is shovelled into a great wooden box like an inverted pyramid with a wide base having a sliding bottom like the door of a sluice-gate; measures holding 220 lb. each are passed under the box and filled by withdrawing the slide a little; they are then struck clean to the edge and emptied into sacks.

26. *Waste Products.*—A large quantity of calcic sulphate or gypsum is deposited year by year in the inner and finishing condensers, where it forms in time a mass of impacted lenticular crystals similar to, but smaller than those found under the salt pans at Chunampet near Merkanum. About every twenty years or so, this deposit has to be removed, as by its thickness and its liability to blister up off the soil, it diminishes the capacity of the condensers, and sometimes also their evaporating surface. Its removal is attended with some expense, which, as far as the gypsum is concerned, is a loss, as it is utterly useless, being mixed up with mud, debris, &c., and has to be thrown away. Sodic sulphate or Glauber's salt is occasionally formed in the reservoirs. Whenever there is sharp frost on the Mediterranean Coast, as happened this year, a double decomposition takes place in the *virgin* brine: magnesic sulphate, and sodic chloride reform themselves into sodic sulphate and magnesic chloride, and the sodic sulphate being in excess at low temperatures falls to the bottom, generally at the lee side of the reservoir towards which its crystals are driven by the wind. It cost about three francs a ton to gather it, and is used chiefly with common salt for forming refrigerating mixtures. Formerly, it was intentionally produced, but now-a-days, since the discovery of large mines of it in Prussia, its manufacture has been given up in France, and its formation simply injures the *virgin* brine, by breaking up the common salt in it, and adding to its quantity of magnesic chloride. Magnesic sulphate and chloride are got rid of with great care at the French works, especially the latter, which is recognised as the most fertile source of wastage. They are pumped out to sea before they reach their point of saturation in bitterns of a comparatively low density from 29° to 32° Beaumé, and thus their deposition is entirely avoided.

27. *Pumping Machine.*—The machinery for raising water seems to me one of the most important and interesting studies at the French works, looking to the wants of Indian salt manufacture; and I quite think that the machine in use in the south of France is one which can be applied at our salt-pans without any great difficulty and with every prospect of success. It is called a tampon. At most stations there is one large tampon worked by ten to twenty horse-power engines, and one or two smaller ones worked by mules.

Similar tampons to this are described in books, but this one is special to the Compagnie du Midi, and is said to throw least labor on the mules, as from the uniform development of the curve, the centre of gravity of the mass or

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particles of water is displaced downwards rapidly and uniformly with consequent diminution of weight and friction. The curve is made by winding a piece of string round the edge of the inner circle or tube orifice of the tampon and unwinding it again, making a pencil score the extremity of the curve it describes. As the string unwinds, the radius of the circle described becomes longer and longer and the dimensions of the tube increases in the same ratio. By lengthening the pole or belts to which the mule or bullock is harnessed the labor may be greatly diminished, but the circle to be traversed is increased to the same extent, and ground wasted as well as time lost. An ordinary mule tampon has a diameter of about 12 feet, costs about francs 3,000 or £120, raises water 3 feet 3 inches, and discharges it at the rate of 263 cubic yards an hour. The circumstance of the machine dips into the water which the chambers take up and discharge at the centre, out of which it flows into the channel at the higher level. By increasing the diameter of the machine it may be made to lift water as much as 5 feet, but this would not be necessary in India. The tampon is made of wood strengthened with iron, and there is a good deal of iron-work about it, but it is not injured to any great extent by the salt-water, as after the first coating of oxide has formed it protects the iron underneath from further rust. By means of the large double steam tampon at the centre of the works, at which part all the channels, &c., communicate with each other through sluice-gates, the manager has perfect control over the flow of water throughout the works, and can empty or fill any part with brine or sea-water at pleasure.

28. It is not easy to institute a close comparison between two methods of salt manufacture, differing so much in detail as do the French and Indian systems. It will be sufficient for my purpose, however, to compare their results, and endeavour to attribute them to their right causes. Salt of an excellent description, hard, heavy, well-crystallised, clean, and almost chemically pure, is produced for about five francs a ton in the south of France by the wholesale method. Salt comparatively of an inferior description, light, friable, flaky, somewhat dirty and impure, is produced in India for a trifle more than that sum; that is, the contractors are paid on an average Rupees 10 a garce, or at the rate of 5·6 francs a ton. Now to give this comparison its true value, it must be stated that the conditions under which salt is made are not the same in both places. On the contrary, there is every reason why salt should be made better and cheaper in India than in France. Comparing notes with M. Gervais, I found that the rate of evaporation of sea-water, or, in other words, the rapidity of production was nearly three times greater on the Madras than on the Mediterranean Coast, and that the price of labor was about one-fourth; besides the presence of a stiff clay soil at most of our salt-pans renders it morally certain that they leak less than those in France. M. Gervais believes that the Compagnie du Midi, with their system, would turn out salt equal to their own in India at the rate of two francs a ton.

29. It thus appears that salt is made in India for 5·6 francs a ton of a decidedly inferior description to that made in France for five francs a-ton. This, again, concerns the merits of the two systems in the abstract only, as the latter price includes the cost of establishment, of works of construction, maintenance, repair, &c., and the coverings of the heaps, &c., and the former price includes none of these things, the Madras Government supplying them as separate from the cost of manufacture. To form a correct estimate of the real merits of the comparison, I must here, therefore, perforce compare the position of the Madras Government as proprietors of salt manufactories partly worked by contract, with that of the Compagnie du Midi making its own salt. I think that it costs the Madras Government about twenty francs a ton to make salt certainly inferior to that made in France under less advantageous meteorological conditions for five francs a ton. The cost of manufacture is made up approximately as follows: Cost of establishment, reckoning it at the recognised rate of three annas a maund or 12·7 francs a-ton, departmental works including salt coverings, &c., a little less than 6 pies a maund, or 1·7 francs a ton, payment to contractors 5·6 francs a ton, total 20 francs a ton. So that, as compared with the Compagnie du Midi, it costs in Madras four times as much to make a salt which is neither so clean nor so pure, nor so wholesome, which will not bear carriage as well, and which is subject to a heavier loss from wastage. The reverse of all this should be the case.

30. I will now endeavour to ascertain the cause, first, of the absolute cheapness of the French salt. I attribute it to the economy of a wholesale method of manufacture. At Aigues Mortes, for instance, which is as large as all the salt stations on the Ennore canal put together, there is a permanent establishment of only 100 men, and one or two superintendents. At the Ennore salt-stations there are hardly less than a thousand contractors, four or five thousand coolies, five superintendents, ten assistants, five clerks, and about fifty peons, who all, after a fashion, live upon salt. Suppose all the outlying stations on the Ennore canal turned into condensers. The salt-beds and platforms, collected at Ennore under the eyes of a single superintendent, his assistant, and a staff proportionate to the diminished area to be looked after, and

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the rest of the people diverted to other industries, and we get an idea of the economies effected by the French system. Conversely, the relative dearness of the Madras salt is due to the fact that Government gives out its manufacture on contract to petty contractors, supplies all the requisite large works, such as canals, embankments, platforms, &c., and maintains an establishment to look after the contractors and salt sufficiently strong to make the salt in a well-arranged manufactory. The low level of the French salt-pans has not much to do with the cheapness of the salt, for after all, the brine is pumped up to the finishing condensers and sometimes to the inner condensers, and when the pumps are not in action, the mules still go on eating in the mangers. Steam-pumps are, of course, relatively economic, but their use in this connection only serves to show that the French works are not much benefited by their low level.

31. The crystalline superiority of the French salt is no doubt due to the length of time it is allowed to form, the depth of brine under which it forms, which protects it from the disturbing influence of the wind, and, in a great measure, also to the custom, strictly enforced, of keeping the brine in the salt-beds always at or below 29° Beaumé, so that salt formation is never hurried or pressed upon by the approaching saturation of the magnesic salts. To these reasons should be added two others; the rate of evaporation is less rapid in France than in India, and the winds, as a rule, are lighter there.

32. The superior clearness of the French salt is due to the gravelly hardness of the salt-beds, careful handling and tile coverings, and its chemical purity to the careful exclusion from the works of brine capable of parting with its magnesic salts. In these respects, Indian salt is evidently capable of being improved up to the French standard without much trouble or expense, granted only a sympathetic state of feeling and hearty co-operation on the part of the native manufacturers.

33. Finally, there remains the question—what proposals calculated to benefit Indian salt culture are suggested by this report? In the first place, there are certain mechanical arrangements which may perhaps be advantageously introduced into this country, which I will here merely enumerate and draw attention to, as before any of them could be adopted on a large scale, the question of advantage would have to be settled by limited experiments. I allude here to the pumping machine, the weighing machine, the platform arrangements for preserving the salt-heaps, the tile coverings for the salt, the stone-rollers for hardening the beds, the wheel-barrows for removing the salt, the stick apparatus for levelling the beds, &c. Many of these might, I believe, be introduced with advantage, but I have returned so lately from France that I cannot as yet speak positively about them. I have already, by recommending in former reports a larger and shallower condensing area, a smaller number of salt-beds collected at the end of the works nearest to the platform, deeper and stronger brine in the crystallising beds, larger crystallising beds well sanded, more time for crystallisation and the removal of mother liquors, &c., anticipated most of the proposals relative to improvements in the details of manufacture suggested by the French works.

34. But besides these questions of detail, there are other and more important proposals which flow naturally from an attentive consideration of the foregoing facts. One which I put forward as a logical deduction from that consideration rather than as a serious proposal, is, that Government make its own salt. As at present managed, Government pays for the construction, up-keep, and establishment of the manufacturing stations, and yet pays ignorant contractors 5·6 francs a ton, for manufacturing an inferior description of salt. Its total outlay is twenty francs a-ton, whereas the French believe, and I also think, that they could make better salt here, everything included, for two or three francs a-ton. By making the salt itself, Government could introduce those working economics and scientific improvements in the details of manufacture noticed in France. It is difficult to understand in what other way they can be introduced. The native contractors are in an independent position, and they know it. Happily ignorant, confident of their power, invincibly prejudiced and conservative, they go on making salt of the old kind in the old way, and, for anything that I can see to the contrary, they will continue to do so for an indefinite number of years. At the end of 1873, I had begun to foresee this, and drew attention to it at the end of my report for that year. I can now only repeat that in so far as my efforts are directed towards improving the present method of salt manufacture, subject to existing sur-

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rounding conditions, they are not, I fear, likely to be productive of any great benefit.

35. Nothing would be better calculated to improve the salt culture of India than the excise system applied to salt, if only salt was sold by weight instead of by measure. But as the reverse is the case, as there is a premium placed on light salt by merchants at present buying by weight and selling by measure, any withdrawal of Government supervision from salt manufacture would be at once followed by a decided deterioration in the quality of the salt in so far as there is room for it. On the other hand, if salt was sold by weight as well as bought by it, the excise system would, I believe, result in causing an immense improvement in the present state of salt manufacture. On the whole, I believe that the excise system, combined with an enactment compelling the sale of salt by weight, is the best proposal that can be made by one employed, as I am, in endeavouring to improve the manufacture of salt in this Presidency.

36. As long as the present state of things continues, intermediate between direct Government manufacture and excise, the best thing to do is to give or sell all new salt stations that are opened to intelligent capitalists, whether Native or European, on the understanding or agreement that they will manufacture salt in an enlightened way and of a superior quality, and I know of no better test of quality apart from the cleanliness of the salt than a comparison of its weight with swamp salt. A manufactured salt, which, bulk for bulk, weighs as much as Vedarniem swamp-salt for instance, is pretty sure to be well crystallised and free from magnesium, &c. By an enlightened way of making salt, I understand its wholesale or economic method of manufacture as adopted by the French, with one restriction. In a tropical climate salt should not be left in the crystallising beds longer than one month at most. Tropical showers come without much warning, and are more copious and destructive than days of rain in France. There may be difficulty in getting men to buy or at least agree to work a whole salt-station on the terms mentioned for the existing Kudivaram. I have professed to be able to make salt at a very low figure. This report contains strong evidence to show that it can be made at any rate for very much less than it costs at present and better made; but how much better, and for how much less, are questions that nothing but a sufficiently extensive experiment can settle practically. If Government desire it, I am ready to undertake the conduct of an experiment, only, to be of use, it should be on a sufficiently large scale; time enough should be allowed for its completion and adequate funds provided for its conduct. The area at my disposal at Ennore last year was far too limited to have enabled me to do more than show how salt may be best and most economically made in an ordinary cramped native ullum.

37. I regret to state that, though I made diligent inquiries at different towns in the south of France, and from men long connected with salt manufacture, I could discover no plans, models, or books, likely to be of use to the Salt Department here. In fact, it is believed that nothing has been written on the subject further than such passing notices as appear in works on Chemistry under the head of Sodic Chloride. Under the circumstances, and considering also that the French gentlemen who courteously assisted me in my work are anxious to see my observations on their method of salt manufacture, I would ask the Board to send some copies of this report to M. Mion, Representative of the *Compagnie des Salines du Midi*, Montpellier.

In this interesting report Dr. Ratton gives an account of his visit last January to the French salines or salt-manufactories on the Mediterranean Coast.

2. It appears that the French Government make no salt. The manufactories are worked by private individuals or companies who pay an excise of 100* francs per ton of salt sold at the pans for home-

* Equivalent to—	RS.	A.	P.
Per Garce ...	176	0	0
Per Indian Maund .	1	7	6

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consumption. No tax is levied on salt for export.

3. The works are situated on sandy littoral wastes generally below sea-level, and are surrounded by heavy embankments to protect the pans from floodings. The areas enclosed seem to vary from several hundred acres to some fifteen to twenty square miles. Sea-water is supplied by canals with locks or sluices where they enter the embanked spaces. The salt-water flows naturally into several series of shallow tanks or condensers, arranged, not in artificial order, but suitably to the natural undulations of the sites, which are utilised to the utmost, and is gradually passed on by gravitation or pumping to the finishing condensers and crystallising beds. The manufacture is carried on generally from April to September.

4. The salt is stored in masonry or wooden frames, the floors being tiled or boarded, or sometimes merely gravelled and rolled hard. Tiles are now used to cover the salt instead of thatch, by which a considerable saving in wastage and greater cleanliness is said to be secured. The salt produced is described as decidedly superior to that ordinarily manufactured in the Madras Presidency.

5. Comparing the results of the French and Indian systems, Dr. Ratton says: "Salt of an excellent description, hard, heavy, well-crystallised, clear, and almost chemically pure, is produced for about five francs a ton in the south of France by the wholesale method. Salt comparatively of an inferior description, light, friable, flaky, somewhat dirty, and impure is produced in India for a trifle more than that sum, *i.e.*, the contractors are paid on an average Rupees 10 a garce, or at the rate of 5·6 francs a ton." In the next paragraph, however, Dr. Ratton proceeds to say that the 5 francs in France covers the cost of establishments and of works of all sorts from first to last; whilst, if these are taken into account for Madras, the Indian price is raised from 5·6 to 20 francs a ton, or the Indian cost for an inferior is four times the French cost for a decidedly superior description of salt. And the opinion is further expressed that, with certain advantages considered to attach to the circumstances of Indian manufacture, the relative cost should be less; in fact, that salt equal to the French might be produced at two francs per ton.

6. The Board have no means of knowing how Dr. Ratton's comparative calculations of the prices of French and Indian salt have been arrived at in detail. He does not appear to have included the cost of the excise establishment in the French price, whilst the cost of managing the Government monopoly is evidently debited in the Indian price. In fixing the cost of establishment at the rate of three annas a maund, however, he is obviously in error, for this sum is not the "recognised rate for the cost of establishment," but rather for all charges incidental to manufacture on the East Coast as shown by the figures submitted to Government with reference to the Bill for the amendment of the Salt Law (now Act XI of 1875) in Board's Proceedings dated 12th July 1873, No. 1275. The average cost of manufacture based on calculations for a period of six years is there shown to have been three annas and one pie per maund, inclusive of all charges except wastage, the addition of which raises the cost to three annas and three pies. This estimate may not be absolutely correct, as it is difficult to estimate the sum to be allowed for construction, maintenance, and repair of salt-works, but it is approximately correct. The Board have recently called for information which will enable them to frame a more trustworthy estimate as directed in G. O., dated 3rd February 1875, No. 179. Three annas and three pies per maund is equivalent to 13·3 francs a-ton, and this much more nearly represents the cost to the Madras Government than 20 francs a-ton. The average quantity manufactured from 1867-68 to 1872-73 appears, from the Board's Proceedings already quoted, to have amounted to 5,826,655 maunds, the cost of which, at three annas and three pies per maund, would amount to Rupees 11,83,540. At 5 francs a ton it would amount

to Rupees 4,45,092, and at 2 francs a ton to Rupees 1,78,037, resulting in a saving of Rupees 7,38,395 in the former and Rupees 10,05,450 in the latter case. Could salt be produced, therefore, in this Presidency at the rate at which it is described as being produced in France, the saving to Government would be very considerable; and, though there may be room for a difference of opinion as to the actual difference in cost, there can be no doubt that there is immense economy in the French system, and that probably from its study much practical improvement, and a very considerable saving of expense, may be effected in our own salt-manufacture.

7. Dr. Ratton appears to attribute the positive cheapness of French salt to the wholesale method of manufacture conducted on intelligent principles, and its comparative cheapness in reference to Indian salt to the facts that private manufacturers generally work more economically than a Government department, and that Government, besides entertaining expensive establishments and executing salt works, pays a large number of petty contractors wedded to a slovenly and comparatively expensive system.

8. As to steps calculated to benefit Indian salt-culture, he indicates certain arrangements of detail which may be tested by experiments. He puts forward rather as "a logical deduction" from a consideration of the facts he has adduced, than as "a serious proposal," that Government should make its own salt, and considers that nothing would be better calculated to improve the salt-culture of India (if salt were sold by weight instead of by measure) than the introduction of the excise system. It is sufficient to observe that, apart from the fact that the retail sale of salt by measure is the rooted habit of the country, which it would be very difficult to interfere with even if such a step were considered desirable, the objections to the substitution of the excise system for that at present prevailing in this Presidency have been clearly and conclusively shown in the Revenue Secretary's letter to the Government of India, dated 17th February 1875, No. 256. This part of the general question, therefore, need not be further considered at present.

9. The main subject for immediate consideration is the financial aspect of the question. Although it is, of course, desirable to improve the quality of our salt, the salt now produced is, the Board believe, perfectly wholesome, and is well adapted to the tastes of the people. The mass of the consumers would probably purchase the salt now supplied at present rates rather than pay even a slightly enhanced price for what Europeans would consider a very superior quality of salt. The object should therefore be, whilst seeing that a sound wholesome standard of quality is maintained and improvement effected as far as may be, to reduce the cost to Government to the utmost both as regards production and departmental management from beginning to end. It seems to the Board that all that can practically be done with advantage now is—

1*stly*.—To see that every attention is paid to the introduction of approved mechanical arrangements and the improvement of the system of operations at the salt-works, so that the expense of production and management may be reduced to the utmost under the present system.

2*ndly*.—To undertake experiments at some convenient place on a sufficiently extensive scale, to determine practically whether salt can be produced in a very much more economical manner than at present or not.

3*rdly*.—When any new ground is taken up for salt-manufacture, to deal, if possible, with a capitalist instead of with a number of petty contractors as has been the practice hitherto, so as to reduce to a minimum the cost of manufacture and of the Government establishment required to be maintained.

10. With these remarks, the Board resolve to submit Dr. Ratton's report to Government, with a request that, if the Government approve of experiments on a considerable scale being made (as advocated above), the Board may be authorised to communicate with Dr. Ratton, and prepare a scheme in detail. The

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opening of new pans at Harigoshti in the South Arcot District affords a favourable opportunity for conducting the experiment on a sufficiently extensive site, which the Board believe to be available for the purpose.

11. In accordance with the request at paragraph 37, Dr. Ratton will be furnished with ten copies of his report for distribution.

(A true Copy and Extract.)
(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

Order thereon, 25th September 1875, No. 1,414.

The thanks of the Government are due to Dr. Ratton for his interesting report on the method of salt culture in France, which will be communicated to the Chamber of Commerce. The Government will be prepared to entertain proposals from capitalists to undertake salt manufacture on their own account on such a scale as to admit of the Excise Act being extended to their works.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE INDIAN AGRICULTURIST.

The discontinuance of the *Agricultural Gazette of India* in March last, left us without any purely agricultural paper whatever in India; a country, the industry of which is almost wholly agricultural. Our purpose therefore in publishing the *Indian Agriculturist* is to fill the gap thus made, with a complete current record of everything that is being done, or attempted, in the various provinces of the country, for the improvement of the husbandry of the people, and for the ascertainment and development of their mineral resources. In considering the size and form that it would be best to give to the paper, we have finally decided that we could not do better than retain the main features of the old *Agricultural Gazette of India.* We have thought well over the question of size, type, and paper to be employed; and in view of the fact that the work is designed to be one of constant reference as well as of current record, and the extreme convenience of the old *Agricultural Gazette* in form, we have determined to make very little change either in the size of journal, or the type, or the paper.

The *Statistical Reporter* now being brought out from the Bengal office, while very valuable to the province, will form a work of most inconvenient size for reference, and as to carrying such a work about the country, it would be impossible. Such of our readers as may have seen the *Agricultural Gazette* in volume form, will probably have been struck with the extreme convenience of its size, while half a dozen volumes of the journal might be carried by the settlement or revenue officer anywhere, without the least embarrassment from their bulk; thus having at his command every fact of importance that has appeared in the *Gazettes*, or the public papers of the country, concerning its agriculture in the previous half dozen years. In the present low state of education amongst the people, there is almost no enquiry amongst them for such information, while if ever an occasion existed for an attempt to excite a demand by the supply, it is surely in this case. We have to thank several of the governments and administrations of the country for the readiness with which they have come forward to assist us to produce a paper, which, as long experience has shewn, can never in a purely official form excite any interest; while every such attempt must necessarily cost many times the amount that might secure for every province in the Empire all it wants in a semi-official form. Every one we suppose knows how little hope there is of such a journal being established without some governmental help, and our warm thanks are due to the local governments who have given us their assistance in our work.—*The Indian Agriculturist*, 1st January 1876.

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